



THE *Diamond* NEWS

PROUDLY HIGHLIGHTING LA JOYA ISD'S ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE & ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 1983!

NEW PROJECTS WILL *Increase Safety Measures,* A TOP PRIORITY AT LA JOYA ISD



"At La Joya ISD safety is and always will be our number one priority - we want our community to know that providing a safe and secure environment for our students and staff is imperative and our priority each and every day."

RAUL GONZALEZ,
LJISD Police Chief

Safety incidents are on the rise nationally and in order to deliver the best education La Joya Independent School District continues to maintain safety a top priority.

La Joya ISD Board of Trustees and Administration are committed to the safety of students and staff. Board of Trustees have approved projects that will increase safety measures. We will provide safe surroundings and increase security by installing electronic gates in all campuses to secure outside parameters by enclosing them. This will help monitor employees and visitors that arrive at our campuses.

An additional safety measure is a state of the art radio communication

system for our police department, first responders in the area and school district staff. This radio communication system will increase connectivity throughout our district, shorten the response time in emergencies, and reach areas that our current system does not, such as schools in the seven mile line area.

This update is designed to improve and increase district response to any incident using a unified command system.

"At La Joya ISD safety is and always will be our number one priority --- we want our community to know that providing a safe and secure environment for our students and staff is imperative and our priority each and every day," stated Raul Gonzalez LJISD Police Chief.

"We believe that if students do not feel safe, then appropriate learning cannot take place in our classrooms," added Gonzalez.

See "Safety" continued on page 7

Message FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear La Joya ISD Family,

I am happy to welcome back our students, parents, teachers, staff, and administration for what promises to be an exciting 2019-2020 academic year!

The school year began in celebration with the release of the highly anticipated State Accountability Ratings from the Texas Education Agency, and I am excited to share that La Joya ISD has earned a "B" rating (88)! Not only have we improved our score from last year, but we have also earned an "A" for performance in School Progress and 7 campuses earned an individual "A" rating, while 26 earned a "B" rating with a total of 118 distinctions earned as a district. Congratulations to all our students, teachers, parents, staff, and administration!

One of my priorities this year is to ensure that La Joya ISD continues to Shine Bright and that our students, staff, administration, parents, and our community continue to show their La Joya ISD Pride! I wish you a great new school year and look forward to your many academic successes and growth.

¡Estoy feliz de dar la bienvenida a nuestros estudiantes, padres, maestros, personal y administración para lo que promete ser un emocionante año académico 2019-2020!

El año escolar comenzó en celebración con el lanzamiento de las muy esperadas Calificaciones de Responsabilidad del Estado de la Agencia de Educación de Texas, ¡y estoy emocionado de compartir que La Joya ISD ha obtenido una calificación de "B" (88)! No solo hemos mejorado nuestro puntaje del año pasado, sino que también hemos obtenido una "A" por su desempeño en el progreso escolar y 7 campus obtuvieron una calificación individual "A", mientras que 26 obtuvieron una calificación "B" y un total de 118 distinciones ganado. ¡Felicitaciones a todos nuestros estudiantes, padres, personal y administración!

¡Una de mis prioridades este año es asegurar que La Joya ISD continúe brillando y que nuestros estudiantes, el personal, la administración, los padres y nuestra comunidad continúen mostrando su orgullo de La Joya ISD! Les deseo un gran nuevo año escolar y espero sus muchos éxitos académicos y crecimiento.

With great pride,

Dr. Gisela Saenz

LA JOYA ISD SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



LA JOYA ISD SCHOOL *Volunteers* EARN SBOE'S 2019 HEROES FOR CHILDREN AWARD

Creation of a suicide prevention program, leading successful bond campaigns, and mentoring struggling readers are examples of just some of the volunteer activities performed by 15 individuals who were presented with 2019 Heroes for Children award by the State Board of Education (SBOE) on Sept. 13.

Collectively, these award recipients have donated 179 years of service to the Texas public schools. Each year one outstanding

school volunteer is selected to receive the award from each SBOE district.

La Joya ISD would like to congratulate two Parent Volunteers that were selected for the Heroes for Children Award Mrs. Julia Saenz, parent volunteer at Juarez-Lincoln High School and Mrs. Anita Garcia, Parent Volunteer at Memorial Middle School. Both parents were recognized amongst only 15 awardees statewide on September 13, 2019 by the State Board of Education general

meeting in Austin Texas. The recognition is due to their outstanding service and support to school community, the staff, and most especially, the students of Texas.

They were the only two selected by the Texas Education Agency from the entire Rio Grande Valley!! Congratulations to both of them and to all our parent volunteers for Shining Bright and Showing Our La Joya ISD Pride!

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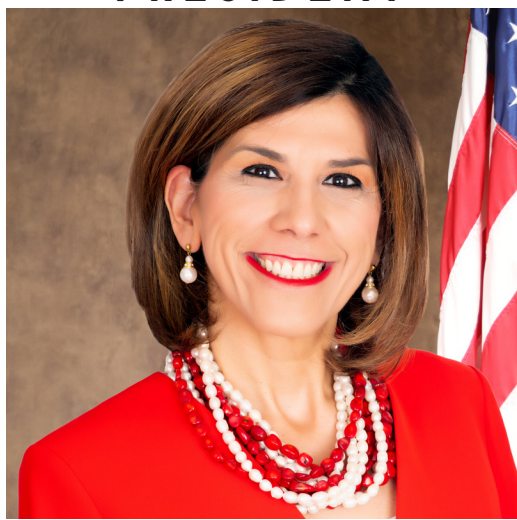
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DISTRICT NEWS

LA JOYA ISD *THE DIAMOND NEWS* | 2019-2020 ISSUE 1



Message FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT



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

Welcome to this inaugural edition of La Joya ISD's monthly newspaper – *The Diamond News*! We have had a longstanding tradition of producing a monthly district newspaper, *El Noticiero*, which was used to share news and information with our La Joya community. It is our pleasure to hereby unveil this new, revamped version of our district newspaper. We have renamed it to reflect the jewel of pride we have for our district. We have redesigned the content to make it easier to read and understand, and we have revised the manner of distribution – we are now mailing this newspaper directly to approximately 26,000 homes in the La Joya area.

We hope you enjoy *The Diamond News* and we look forward to continuing to share our wonderful district news with our community. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Esperanza "Espie" Ochoa

BOARD PRESIDENT

ROSENDO BENAVIDES ELEMENTARY MAKING *Science History*



"Our journey is just beginning, the students and staff have gotten a taste of success and are now eager for more."

DR. ROMEO BENAVIDEZ, CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

As TEA continues to challenge districts and schools around Texas, we are continuously establishing higher goals in order to reach the state's accountability system. Our campus and district staff are committed to establish a culture of high student achievement, improvement showing school progress and closing the gaps between student subgroups. This year, Rosendo Benavides Elementary 5th grade TEAM shined the brightness on the Science assessment. For the first time in the school's history, they received a distinction from TEA.

DISTRICT VISION: Educational Excellence: The Right of Every Student

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.

SCHOOL BOARD

Esperanza "Espie" Ochoa, President
Mary T. Hernandez, Vice-President
Oscar "Coach" Salinas, Secretary
Nereyda Cantu, Member
Armin Garza, Member
Claudia Ochoa, Member
Alejandro "Alex" Cantu, Member

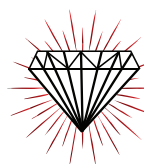


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Martin Muñoz, Asst. Super. for Human Resources
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La Joya Independent School District
(956) 323-2545 | www.lajoyaisd.com



SHINE Bright
& SHOW YOUR LA JOYA ISD PRIDE

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Homero Amador, Social Media & Videographer Specialist
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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

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TABASCO BEGINS YEAR ON "A" High Note

As the 2019-20 school year rolled around, some exciting news arrived: Years of hard work and dedication by staff, students, families, and the community had culminated in Tabasco Elementary being awarded an "A" rating by the Texas Education Agency.

In addition, Tabasco Elementary earned five academic distinctions - Mathematics, Reading, Science, Postsecondary Readiness, and Closing The Gap.

Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, the school has also been named a Leadership Designated Campus by La Joya ISD. The school has adopted the Leader In Me program model to serve as a guide for the transformation of school culture into one that ensures empowerment of students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century.

Being a Leader In Me school involves adopting the philosophies and cultural practices and paradigms prescribed in Stephen Covey's "7 Habits of Highly Effective People". This focus enables students to learn

how to find the leaders within themselves and work efficiently, plan for their own success, and execute a lifestyle of personal growth and improvement.

Classrooms are putting a greater emphasis on student empowerment, ensuring that leadership roles are in place within classroom environments and also across other school environments such as the cafeteria and gym. The Student Council will have an embellished role this year in campus leadership, as well, and students will be more actively involved in school promotion and historical preservation, including yearbook production.

Students are already putting this into practice with a strengthened dedication to following all school procedures and expectations, including being respectful, responsible, and safe.

Way to go, Tabasco students, for all of your achievements and a successful start to the new year!

Raul Perez, Julian Rosas, Carlos Monjaras, Roberto Cantu, Aries Gutierrez, and Marco Avila demonstrate their understanding of campus expectations in P. Oliva's fourth-grade class.

Students from S. Martinez's third-grade class demonstrate a perfectly created line while exiting from the cafeteria after lunch.



Tabasco Elementary staff starts the year off right after a collective effort of students, staff, families, and the community leads to Tabasco Elementary earning an "A" Rating from TEA.

The Sky IS THE LIMIT AT GARZA ELEMENTARY #WEAREGARZASTEM

La Joya Independent School District proudly announces that Evangelina Garza Elementary, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Designated School has earned an "A" with a Distinction in Reading for their scores in 4th grade writing, 3rd grade reading and Accelerated Student Progress in Reading on the 2019 Texas Academic Performance Report!! Additionally, Garza Elementary has been working diligently to earn the rating of "Exemplary Dual Language Campus" as evidence of high-quality DLE instruction.

As a STEM Designated campus, we have been integrating engineering, math, science, and technology into our curriculum from bridge building to science investigations and coding. We make it a point to integrate STEM into daily learning objectives. One of our goals is to make sure we do all we can to prepare our students for college, a career, or the military. At Garza Elementary, we remind our students on a daily basis that "The Sky is the Limit, so DREAM BIG!" We strive daily to develop the creativity in our students, to teach them that teamwork is important, to be real-world problem solvers and to learn to communicate effectively.

These skills are important as we prepare them for their future success as citizens of our great country.

We are instilling the importance of extra-curricular activities in our students as we offer the opportunity for UIL, the Robotics Club, Campus Choir and sports through the Boys & Girls Club of Mission where our students participate in volleyball, baseball, and softball.

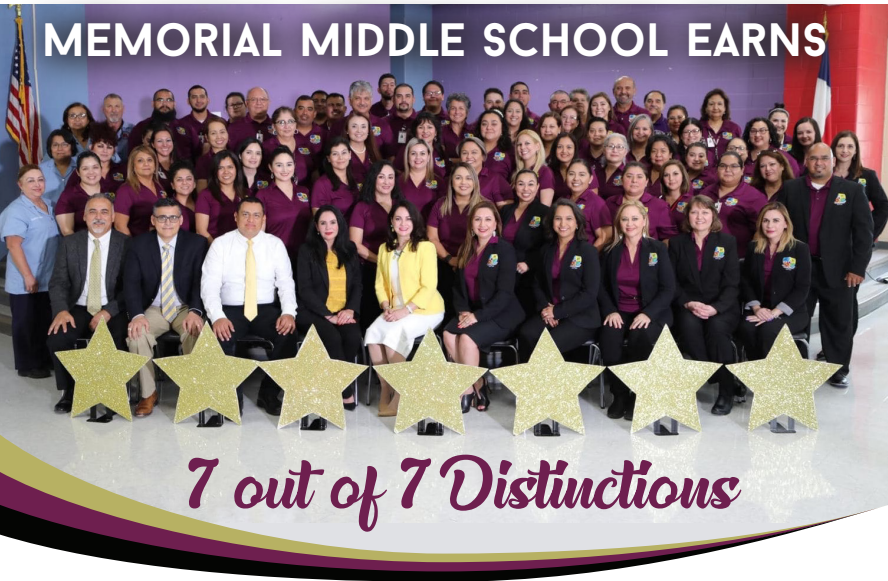
"At Garza Elementary, we welcome all students with open arms and work diligently to have them soar to new heights by ensuring that our teachers deliver quality lessons on a daily basis", shares Principal

Maria Flores-Guerra. We look at individual student strengths and areas for improvement and plan accordingly for their success. This is evidenced with the score of 96 the campus earned in Domain 3 (Closing the Gaps) on the Texas Education Agency 2019 Accountability Rating System.

At Garza Elementary, our students are near and dear to our hearts; we strive to provide an environment that places them at the top of everything we do! We are confident that our students truly DREAM BIG and work toward becoming whatever their heart desires!



MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL EARNS



7 out of 7 Distinctions

Memorial Middle School is overwhelmed with pride to have earned seven out of seven distinctions from the Texas Education Agency. This overall rating, published by the TEA in August 2019, ranks Memorial Middle School at the top of their comparison group in each of the seven evaluated categories.

"For a school to earn every potential distinction applicable to their campus is difficult but a reflection of some truly amazing work by our educators," states Commissioner of Education, Mike Morath.

Newcomer principal, Mrs. Belen Martinez, agrees with this sentiment and lauds the achievement as a collective effort crafted through intentional planning by campus staff and stakeholders. "Earning all campus-level distinctions is a notable accomplishment. Our success in reaching this mark is a reflection of the work of our teachers, staff, students and parents. It is a process that began to take shape throughout the school year as a result of a team effort. We recognize that this is an outstanding achievement."

That team effort lead to a banner year for the

campus in which MMS consistently ranked at the top amongst district middle schools in a wide-range of categories throughout the school year including highest student attendance and the highest participation in Reading Renaissance.

Rounding out a year of outstanding achievements, MMS excelled in the areas of Fine Arts and Athletics. The mighty Lobos 8th grade football team earned the District Championship while the Lobo Band and Choir both represented MMS flawlessly in their respective UIL annual competitions earning Sweepstakes, the highest possible attainment for the groups. The Drill Team topped the Showtime International dance Competition earning the elusive Champions Circle Award. The MMS Grupo Folklorico received 1st place in the Large Division Category for their Veracruz Dance, 1st Place in the Large Division Category for their Folklorico Contemporary Dance at the La Feria de South Texas College Folklorico and Dance Competition.

Memorial Middle School is looking forward to another exciting school year!

TWO A'S IN A ROW FOR Jimmy Carter ECHS

For the second year in a row Jimmy Carter Early College High School has received an A-rating from the Texas Education Agency with 5 out of 7 distinctions in the 2019 Texas Academic Performance Report. The campus has earned academic distinction in the areas of Academic Growth, Mathematics, English Language Arts and Reading, Post-secondary Readiness, and Closing the Achievement Gaps.

"I believe we deserve it; our school has amazing, passionate teachers and great administrators. I am proud of what everyone has done to earn this accomplishment," said Junior Michael del Angel.

According to TEA, an A-rating demonstrates a campus' performance in preparing students for success in both school and post-secondary readiness. Carter staff guides students as they develop five essential qualities that represent the Red Wolf philosophy: Integrity, perseverance, respect, discipline, and commitment.

English teacher Benito Bernal said Jimmy Carter's "A" designation is the culmination and recognition of the collective hard work of Carter's faculty, staff, administration, and students. Additionally, Carter's faculty do their best to ensure that Red Wolf students receive a high-quality education and that students prove time and time again that they will rise to the high standards set for them.

"It is an honor and a privilege to work with our students and see them grow academically," said Bernal.

Integrating these five qualities into their academic program is highlighted by the campus being named a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Carter is demanding; students work on rigorous academics from core high school curriculum to the addition of dual enrollment courses which enable them to graduate with an associate degree from South Texas College. Students are encouraged to pursue their academic interests and personal passions as part of the school mission.

Carter Teacher of the Year, Leslie Gonzalez, said, "Here at Jimmy Carter ECHS, it is important to instill self-discipline in our students. The ability to take control of their thoughts and decisions will not only help them be successful academically, but also make a difference in their personal growth and development. They acquire lifetime skills that will help them be independent individuals and teaches them to take advantage of one of the most important privileges they have, the privilege of choice.

Carter students are tasked with completing graduation requirements and engaging in community service to develop their sense of community involvement, personal responsibility, and integrity.

Jimmy Carter Early College High School is committed to cultivating the 21st-century leaders of tomorrow and will continue to develop with attention to academics, social and emotional development. Principal Claudia Gomez-Perez underscores that the needs of our students are beyond academics and that by focusing on those needs our students as well will achieve more.

Gomez said, "It is with immense pride that we as campus take these accolades. They represent the work of a team, a family, that is driven to develop our future Red Wolves as leaders of excellence."

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

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Tech Revolution at CHAPA ELEMENTARY



Fabian Salinas 4th Grade & Rey Sosa 4th Grade

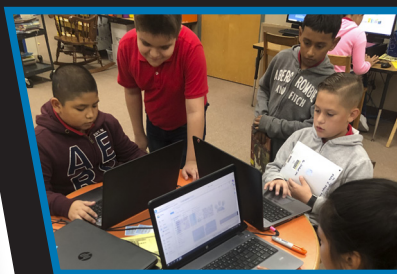
Technology Innovation and Integration are in full force at Chapa Elementary! Our teachers are creating lessons to invigorate a student's learning experience and students are actively engaged during all lessons throughout our campus. Visitors are encouraged to take out their mobile device to experience a taste of a student's creations via QR codes. We are revolutionizing how our students and staff are using Technology. We are creating a TECH REVOLUTION.

GONZALEZ ELEMENTARY Celebrates Dot Day!

Second grade students at Henry B. Gonzalez Elementary celebrated Dot Day with fun educational activities. The students were allowed to connect their academic learning through technology using the Quiver App and also demonstrated their artistic side by allowing their imagination to take over after reading *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds. Students were given a blank paper with a black dot on it and from there were able to make their own mark on a masterpiece.



Reading, Technology & Creativity AT THE CHAPA ELEMENTARY LIBRARY



Pictured are 5th Grade students: Leslie Padron, Alberto Maldonado, Jarek Velasquez, Kleber Ramirez, and Jose Valdivia.

Our Chapa Elementary Library is the place to be! Our students, staff and community all experience an atmosphere of creativity, exploration, learning and fun. We ensure all students visit the library on a weekly basis and experience a read aloud, craft, technology exploration and creative play activity. Our staff and librarian work together to ensure we are conferencing with all students and encouraging the love of reading and exploration. Librarian, Vanessa Flores states, "I believe the library is a place for everyone to learn something new and always want to discover new things whether in a book or in an activity." 21st Century learners is our goal and we are well on our way!

SCAN ME



TABASCO
YOUTUBE
CHANNEL

TABASCO ELEMENTARY Goes Live!



Fifth-grader Maryn Oliva, left, and fourth-grader Scarlet Saldaña started Tabasco Elementary off on the right foot with live-streamed announcements on the school's YouTube channel. Two new students are selected every week.

Lights, camera, action! It's 7:30 a.m., and Tabasco Elementary is ready to begin another day of learning with you, whether you're watching from your desk in the classroom or your comfy chair at home. Indeed, daily live-streamed announcements have become a reality at Tabasco, marking the beginning of a new era of community engagement and student interaction.

As a Leadership Designated Campus beginning with the 2019-20 school year, Tabasco Elementary strives to create opportunities for its students to showcase their public speaking skills and build the confidence to find their own voice and put it forward into the world.

In pursuit of this idea, two students selected weekly in third through fifth grade are helping Principal Marena Contreras deliver students the essential information they need to start their day, and to ensure that parents are able to stay in the daily information loop and not miss important information about things that are going on around campus.

Students and parents can tune in live at 7:30 a.m., or they can go to the Tabasco YouTube channel at bit.ly/TabascoYouTube and view any previously streamed videos at any time.

Have you connected with Tabasco Elementary's YouTube announcements? Visit the channel, like and subscribe, and stay up to date with what is going on with our campus.

LIGHTS... CAMERA... Mendiola!



Mendiola Elementary is kicking off the 2019-2020 school year and is ready to shine bright! As a Media Arts and Communication designated campus, Dr. Palmira Mendiola Elementary has prepared many fascinating new projects for this school year. Everyone is invited to visit our brand new YouTube channel to watch all the marvelous productions students are working on... and please, don't forget to subscribe and like our videos!

Feeling Bubbly AT KIKA ELEMENTARY!

"Attend today, Achieve Tomorrow!" says Ms. Fernandez. When it comes to attendance, administrators, teachers and paraprofessionals have formed a united front to assure perfect attendance. "Together we stand to build skills and progress with each individual student so they may succeed academically." "In order for us to do this, they need to be present to learn", declares Ms. I. Fernandez, Principal at Kika Elementary. Our united front have stepped it up a notch to increase attendance throughout the school.

Who doesn't like a nice reward? Not the kids from Kika Elementary! Students can earn rewards two ways. Individual students will receive incentives for coming to school on a weekly basis and, the class with 100% attendance can earn a reward as a class, as well. The class that reaches the goal for the six weeks will see even bigger compensations.

Kika de la Garza has already begun their reward system for the students and classes. They have enjoyed popcorn, snow cones, and bubbles on Friday's as part of their rewards. Thus far, the bubbles were a winning hit. Students were animated and eagerly waiting to get their hands on the bubbles. Smiles filled the play area as students pulled out their colorful wands from the bubble container. Watching their gleeful faces and much awaited bubble blowing would prove to be a reward in itself. We anticipate on having our attendance increase as the weeks pass on by.



2019 Hispanic Heritage Month

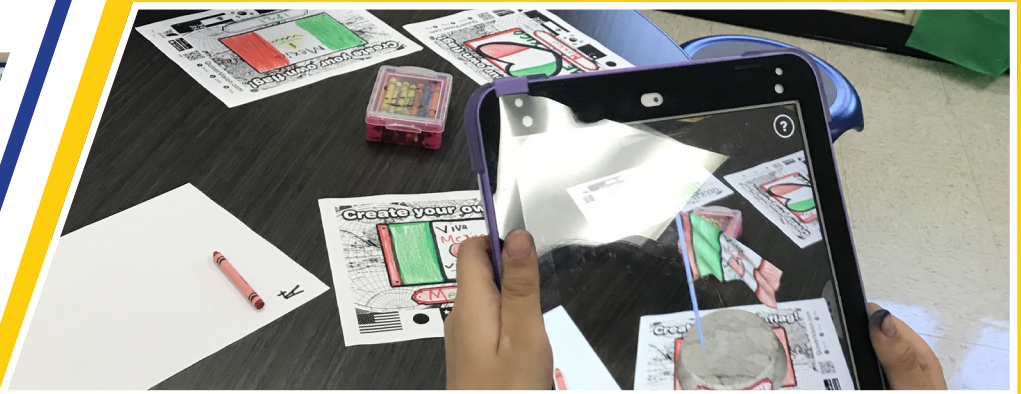
PEREZ ELEMENTARY KICKS OFF National Hispanic Heritage Month



Perez Elementary Students and Mrs. H. Rodriguez celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month at Patricio Perez Elementary

Perez Elementary kicked off National Hispanic Heritage Month by dressing up in their favorite Mexican attire on Friday, September 16, 2019. The halls were full of children dressed in festive colors and decorative pants and dresses. The students learned about the Mexican Independence Day and National Hispanic Heritage Month. Oscar de la Renta said, "My great strength is knowing who I am, and where I come from." Perez Elementary students are well on their way to discovering their greatest strength.

Clinton KICKS OFF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Clinton has kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month in style! Students celebrated this month dressed in their best Mexican attire and participated in the school's annual dance celebration. Students listened and danced to Hispanic music as well as the traditional Mexican huapangos. Students will continue celebrating Hispanic Heritage all month long in their classrooms. In Miss Garcia's Reading Class, students learned about the Mexican Flag and created their own twist to the Mexican flag. After they created their own flag the students were able to use the Quiver app to see their flag in 3D.



E. B. Reyna students dressed in 16 de septiembre attire (l-r): Mayrin Villanueva, Alondra Villalon, Ximena Gutierrez and Minerva Mendez

CELEBRATING 16 DE SEPTIEMBRE AT E. B. Reyna Elementary

E. B. Reyna Elementary staff and students celebrated 16 de septiembre, Mexico's Independence Day. Students dressed in beautiful, flowery dresses and traditional red, white, and green attire to celebrate their Hispanic heritage. Girls wore their hair in braids with ribbons intertwined and colorful flowery dresses. It was a beautiful sight to see how proud they were to dress in traditional Mexican attire. Teachers also planned activities that explained the importance of this day and why we as Mexican Americans celebrate it. Students at E. B. Reyna are proud to recognize their heritage and culture.

Heritage CELEBRATION AT LEO!

Beautiful dresses and vibrant colors filled the halls of Leo J Leo as students and staff kicked off Hispanic Heritage month this past 16 de Septiembre. Our students beamed with pride as they displayed their gorgeous attire that reflected the beautiful culture of Mexico. Leo Scholars are shining bright and showing pride for our amazing campus!



JFK CELEBRATES 16 DE SEPTIEMBRE

At JFK elementary our Mexican culture was evident on "16 de septiembre". As soon as you entered the hallways and classrooms the colors Verde, Blanco, and Rojo were in abundance. The colors were worn to celebrate Mexican Independence Day. Teachers and students alike from Pre-K through 5th grade came together to join the festivities. Mexican attire worn included sombreros, fancy Mexican dresses, linens and florals. Even our parent volunteers join the celebration by providing/cooking Mexican delicacies for all staff to indulge.



Viva la INDEPENDENCIA"

Teachers and students walk a parade through school with pride in observance of Mexico's national public holiday, Independence Day on September 16, 2019. Our staff and students filled the halls with colorful attire of beautiful Mexican skirts and dresses, as well as sombreros. Shining with pride, third grade student, Alexia Hernandez leads the way as students parade each hallway. In the month of September, we also take into account that it is National Hispanic Heritage month, where we recognize Hispanic and Latino Americans of the United States that have contributed to our society. In addition, our Kindergarten teachers, Miss Meraz, Mrs. Berrones, Mrs. Lozano, and Mr. Rios brought Mexican cuisine to the students in school by accepting contributions from parents of our community to participate in preparing Mexican dishes. Parents were enthused to bring tamales, enchiladas, bunuelos, choco flan and much more. The students were having fun tasting the variety of dishes the culture has to offer. Third grade student, Chelsea Torres says "It was amazing because I loved dressing up to show my culture." Third grade student, Karla Alvarez also shared, "I loved experiencing part of the Mexican tradition of our family." Overall, our students at Emiliano Zapata Elementary were able to experience a true connection to their culture and enhance their knowledge of Mexican traditions.



The students at Emiliano Zapata Elementary observe Mexico's national public holiday, Independence Day, on September 16, 2019. Pictured above, from (f-b): Alexia Hernandez, 3rd grade; Shelby Solis, 3rd grade; Chelsea Torres, 3rd grade.



Students at Zapata Elementary enjoy Mexican cuisine prepared by parents to celebrate Mexico's national holiday, Independence Day, on September 16, 2019. Pictured from (l-r): Adelynn Zapata, Kinder; Dilan de Jesus Hernandez, Kinder.

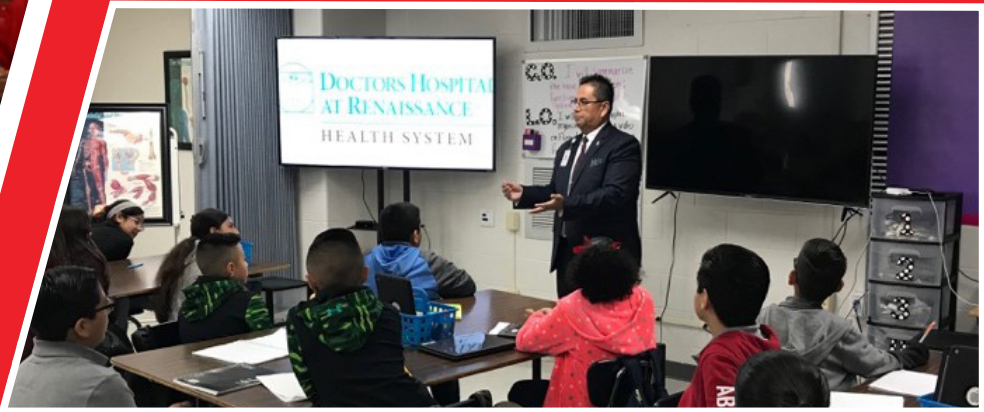




JFK'S HEROES Honored

JFK had their annual observance of September 11th. Our local fire department, police department and EMT's were invited to be honored. GT students presented 9/11 facts to the students during an assembly. Encouraging the students to go out and ask adults share their memories of 9/11. The students also honored, thanked, and cheered our local heroes for always being the first to respond in a time of crisis. As a token of appreciation the students donated treats to give the different departments to take back to their stations and remember that JFK appreciate everything they do and that JFK will never forget 9/11.

CUTTING INTO THE NITTY GRITTY OF HEALTH SCIENCE PROFESSIONS AT Memorial Middle School



MMS Health Science Professions Academy (HSPA) wasted no time getting immersed into the world of Health Science and started the year literally cutting into the nitty gritty. Students enrolled in the HSPA experienced their first anatomy lesson by dissecting a chicken leg. Through this experience, students learned about Personal Protective Equipment, Proper Handwashing Techniques and were introduced to the musculoskeletal system, learning about key components such as muscle tissue, ligaments, tendons, and bone marrow to name a few. Students in the academy also had the opportunity to meet with Mario Lizcano, Administrator for Community Engagement and Corporate Affairs for DHR health. Mr. Lizcano visited with students bringing to light the passion, determination and commitment students must make to successfully enter the field of medicine. Memorial Middle School HSPA is devoted to providing opportunities, support and experiences to continue to inspire and encourage students to pursue a career in the medical field.

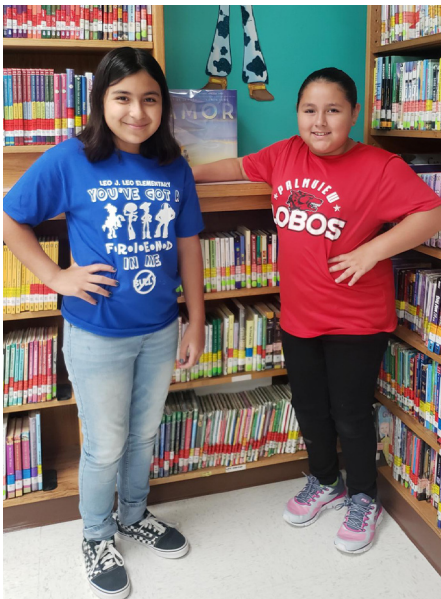
J. N. Seguin STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTED



The very first student council election at Juan N. Seguin Elementary took place on Friday, September 13, 2019. Speeches of students running for office were broadcasted through the school's YouTube channel. All 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students filled in their ballots to cast their votes immediately after viewing the speeches. It was a very close race; the newly elected student council members are, Steven Bonilla - Treasurer, Sarai Garcia - Secretary, Karelli Gomez - Vice-President, and Yubia Hernandez - President. These students are ready to be the difference they want to see!

Girls on the Run SPARKLING LEOS

Girls on the Run is an international non-profit organization designed to enhance girls' social, emotional and physical skills and behaviors to successfully navigate life experiences. Twice per week for 10 weeks trained coaches lead small teams on girls in grades 3-5 through the program's intentional curriculum that creatively integrates running. In each meeting, volunteer coaches empower the girls with valuable life lessons. This year Leo J. Leo Elementary integrated this program to their already Fine Arts Department. The teachers who proudly volunteer weekly to stay afterschool for one hour and a half with the girls are: Mrs. Penuelas, Ms. J. Maldonado, Mrs. O. Garcia, Ms. C. Hernandez and Mrs. A. Rios. Student's Ivanka Alvarez and Alyssa Vega, were two out of 12 girls that assisted the first meeting on September 17, 2019. I interviewed Ivanka and Alyssa and asked about their experience at the meeting. This is what Ivanka had to say, "I am an important individual at La Joya I.S.D." and Alyssa mentioned, "I enjoyed the three games we did at the meeting". Throughout this season we want our girls to develop and improve competence, feel confidence in who they are, develop strength of character and compassion. Thank you coaches for empowering our Sparkling Leos. A huge thank you to Mrs. Jazinski, our principal, for always giving that extra support!



4th Grade Students: Ivanka Alvarez and Alyssa Vega

EVANGELINA GARZA ELEMENTARY

Saddles Up & Reads



Genesis (5th Grade), Giovanni (4th), Galilea (1st Grade), & Gabriela Gutierrez (1st Grade) Shantal (3rd Grade), Shayla (1st Grade), & Hector Urbina (4th Grade) Principal Maria Flores-Guerra

They say "Everything's Bigger in Texas", and our campus definitely went big with our Wild West Book Fair Family Event hosted on September 12. This was our first Scholastic Book Fair of the year, and we really wanted it to be a unique and fun experience for our visiting parents and students. Our families enjoyed participating in a game of "Wild West Bingo", a "Read Aloud Corral" station where the story Are You a Horse by Andy Rash was shared, and finished off with a visit to our "Wild West Book Fair". Our students and parents also had a Rootin' Tootin' time as they took pictures with our two farm mascots of the day: Clifford the Big Red Dog and The Chick-Fil-A Cow. Special thanks to all of our parents and Garza family members for supporting our Scholastic Book Fair and taking part of this event. In addition, a loud Yee-Haw to Palmhurst Chick-Fil-A management team for helping us out during this great event.

Why Try!

PROGRAM TEACHES STUDENTS ABOUT CULTURAL EVENTS



HOPE Academy students have had a busy first few weeks of school. Students were introduced to new expectations for a new school year. Students have learned about 9/11, the tragedy, the heroes, the perseverance of the United States by making our memorial wall, learning about Agamographs by our History Teacher Mr. Noel Martinez, our puzzle poster by Ms. Dennise Gomez our Credit Recovery Teacher. (Pictured are Mr. Noel Martinez, History Teacher, a few students that worked on project Naidalyn Hernandez, Jerry Silva, and Nicole Rodriguez.) HOPE students also participate in our WhyTry! Program that helps them build on team building, resiliency, tearing off labels, and other strategies. All of our teachers at HOPE Academy have been trained in the ten modules of the WhyTry! Program and implement the activities in their classrooms. We also push the reading renaissance by having students increase their reading words. The students learned about 16 de septiembre, as some staff got dressed in Mexican attire to show the cultural heritage. We also discussed Suicide Prevention and Awareness for the month of September and our looking forward to the new events happening the rest of the school year.

"Safety" continued from page 1

La Joya ISD's Police Department is staffed with a total of 60 Police Officers, 27 Security Officers, and 3 K9 Officers. The role of a police officer has a lot in common with traditional law enforcement, but there are key differences.

The demands of a police officer's job is unique to a school district, and the role entails being the first line of active shooter response, first-aid or medical care, fire response, handling cases and reports, weather-related emergency response, or handling cases of lost IDs or theft. Security Guards are primarily a support to campus police.

The responsibilities of a security guard are more focused on access – maintaining the front end security for the grounds and facilities. By conducting routine inspections or monitoring the facility desk, security guards observe and

report any suspicious behavior, hazardous weather conditions, or unauthorized intruders. While security guards are often able to control access to buildings or manage traffic patterns, the role is less focused on emergency response.

The safety and security of students and staff is a shared responsibility. Our district serves over 27,000 students and 4,200 employees - and everyone plays a vital role in the well-being of students.

La Joya ISD has many practices and procedures in place to help safeguard our children every minute of every day to, from and on campus. Detailed safety plans such as the All Hazard Emergency Operations Plan, is adopted by the school district to execute if an incident may arise. This EOP describes who will do what, as well as when, with what resources, and by what authority--before,

during, and immediately after an emergency.

This All Hazard Emergency Operations Plan has been carefully planned, written, and put in place, and will be practiced frequently with our students and staff. We will continue to practice and update these plans as is necessary.

Preserving trust among staff, students, and families; and creating an environment where students feel empowered to report any safety concerns is important in our district." stated David Nacienceno, LJISD Emergency Management Coordinator. "Importantly, supporting students' psychological safety helps build their resilience and ability to cope when a crisis does occur in any setting," added Nacienceno.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

CAMO OUT WALK & RUN

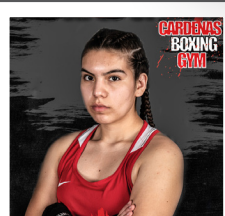
SUPPORTING THE FIGHTERS, ADMIRING THE SURVIVORS, HONORING THE TAKEN, AND NEVER, EVER GIVING UP HOPE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2019
7:30 AM TO 8:00 AM [REGISTRATION]
WALK STARTS
AT 8:15 AM TO 10:00 AM
LA JOYA ISD STADIUM

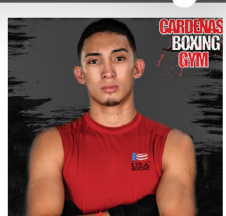
DOOR PRIZES!



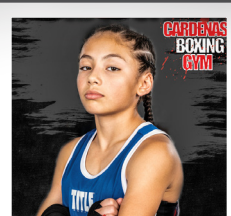
Boxing Champs



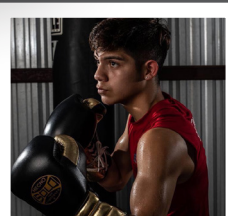
ESTRELLA CELESTINO



LEONEL CARDENAS



KEYLA PRUNEDA



ROBERT FERNANDEZ

Cardenas Boxing Gym has four amateur boxers that will be attending a National Qualifier Tournament on October 5-12, 2019 in Columbus, Ohio. Estrella, Leonel, and Robert attend Juarez Lincoln High School and Keyla attends Domingo Treviño. All of them train five days out of the week for any competition or tournament that come up. They have been training really hard for this National Tournament they will have an opportunity to compete with the best boxer in the Nation. Estrella and Keyla will be there first National tournament they attend. Keyla this year has won Gold Medal at the Junior Olympics, Robert has also won Gold in 2014 and this will be his third National tournament he attends. Leonel is 2 time national champion, 5 time Regional Champion and was Ranked #1 in the Nation in 2018 at the weight class of 138 LBS. Cardenas Boxing Gym has been around for 3 years helping kids and adults learn discipline, self defense, weight loss program, boxing.



Congratulations

La Joya ISD!

Six Schools Named 2018-2019 Honor Roll



Jimmy Carter
Early College High School



Thelma R. Salinas STEM
Early College High School



E. R. Chapa
Elementary



Tabasco
Elementary



John F. Kennedy
Elementary



William J. Clinton
Elementary

ERP EDUCATIONAL
RESULTS
PARTNERSHIP

HONOR ROLL SCHOOL

2018-2019

The Honor Roll recognizes schools that have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, student success, and reduced achievement gaps.

SCHOOL BOARD

Esperanza "Espie" Ochoa, President
Mary T. Hernandez, Vice-President
Oscar "Coach" Salinas, Secretary
Nereyda Cantu, Member
Armin Garza, Member
Claudia Ochoa, Member
Alejandro "Alex" Cantu, Member



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Gisela Saenz, Superintendent of Schools
Joel Treviño, Asst. Super. for Admin. & Finance
Magda Villarreal, Asst. Super. for Curriculum & Instr.
Martin Muñoz, Asst. Super. for Human Resources
Jose Luis Morin, Asst. Super. for Operations
Ricardo Villarreal, Asst. Super. for Student Svcs.

La Joya Independent School District

(956) 323-2545 | www.lajoyaisd.com



SHINE Bright
& SHOW YOUR LA JOYA ISD PRIDE

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @ LAJOYAISD



ACADEMICS

LA JOYA ISD THE DIAMOND NEWS | 2019-2020 ISSUE 1



We Put the AP IN AHSP-STEM!



Pictured are some of the 51 Academy of Health Science Professions & STEM students recognized for passing one or more AP exams taken in May 2019. Not pictured: Class of 2019 seniors who took the exams.

Fifty-one Academy of Health Science Professions & STEM students were celebrated during a campus meeting for passing one or more AP exams taken in May 2019. Of the 51 students, nine earned the designation of AP Scholar - one of which was with Honors, and two with Distinction. Between the 51 students, 11 different tests were passed ranging from (4) Calculus AB, (3) Calculus BC, (3) Calculus AB:BC, (6) English Literature and Composition, (6) Human Geography, (4) Physics 1, (15) Spanish Language and Culture, (8) Statistics, (2) US Government and Politics, (12) US History, and (7) World History. "I have learned so much about U.S. History taking the AP class. Taking an AP class has taught me how to effectively study and discipline myself as a student by adhering to specific deadlines. This will definitely help me in the future," said Senior, Vanessa Gonzalez. "There are so many advantages to taking AP classes that go beyond academic advances, they teach us skills that make us better, more successful students."

5th Grade Science OFF TO STRONG START



Nereo Obregon, Stephanie Garza, Katie Lopez, Mireya Delgado, and Luis Cruz participate in a science activity in class.

The year is just beginning, but fifth-graders are already getting their science learning into high gear with engaging lessons and hands-on experiences in their classrooms.

By the end of the year, fifth-graders need to be science specialists so that they can show that they know for the STAAR. In order to demonstrate their understanding, they must have absorbed a lot of vocabulary throughout the year and also taken part in a good number of experiments so they can see the concepts in action.

Students are participating in using interactive word walls in their classroom to solidify the concepts. Students take on a leadership role in teaching the class the word and ensuring that its proper placement is maintained.

Hands-on experiments also play a major role in the students learning the subject matter in class. The students are already experiencing activities where they can see the states of

matter and other physical properties play out before their eyes, taking the information out of the textbook and into their bank of personal experiences.

Even fifth-grade GT students are participating in science-based activities. This year, the fifth-grade GT class is taking on the Texas Performance Standards Project topic "From Surviving to Thriving on Mars". The students are learning about proposed missions to create a human colony on Mars that are being planned by companies such as Mars One and Space X, which has a launchpad right here in the Rio Grande Valley. Students will have to create their own plan for how humans can successfully colonize the planet, and also create an invention that will aid human civilization there.

Tabasco earned a distinction for science from TEA, and it fully intends to maintain its success in that area through continued focus on this subject throughout the year.

ANN RICHARDS MS FIRST Diamond Reader

Four weeks into the new school year and Ann Richards Middle School has proudly crowned its first Diamond Reader. On Wednesday, September 18, librarian Adelaida Martinez presented seventh grader Marisol Saucedo, who reached the one million word milestone. Previously Marisol had been the top reader at Mendiola Elementary, during her fifth-grade year.

Marisol loves to read. She shares that her reading experience goes back to Pre-kinder, where she first had access to books. She has been reading since then. When asked why she reads so much Marisol says, "Reading is fun and you can learn so much from books. One special thing that I learned from reading is to never give up, even when things are hard." She continued, "I learned that from one of my favorite books, Throne of Glass", which is the first book of a young adult high fantasy novel series by American author Sarah J. Maas. The story follows the journey of Celaena Sardothien, a teenage assassin in a corrupt kingdom with a tyrannical ruler.

We congratulate Marisol, who continues to read, striving to be top reader at Ann Richards Middle School.



WORKING COLLABORATIVELY AT E. B. Reyna Elementary



Pictured are (l to r): Francisco Aguilar, Ximena Ontiveros & Adaya Vasquez.

In Mrs. Hernandez' 4th grade class, Francisco Aguilar, Ximena Ontiveros, and Adaya Vasquez learn division through the use of base ten blocks. The group of students have the task of solving a division problem by working collaboratively. They are engaged by using an expo marker to draw their groups on their desk. Using their base ten blocks, they are discovering the reason behind regrouping in order to divide into equal groups. Here, they are dividing 24 by 3. Ximena and Francisco are regrouping the 2 tens and making them 20 ones in order to successfully divide them equally into the 3 groups. Adaya is taking the role of writing the division equation on the desk. Together, they present how they got their answer to the rest of the class.



W.J. CLINTON
ELEMENTARY
STEM STUDENT

**Anthony
Montemayor:**
**OUTSTANDING
SCHOLAR**

W.J. Clinton Elementary STEM student Anthony Montemayor has accomplished reading one million words within the first week of school! By meeting one million words Anthony reached Diamond Reader status. He has been the district top reader in his grade level two years in a row, earning him the O.S.C.A.R. award. Anthony is an example of a dedicated and self-motivated student that spent his summer vacation getting ready to not only meet his last years goal of three million words but surpass it as well. He is a role model to our younger students as they now set their own goals to reach a Diamond Reader status and follow in his footsteps. His current status has him close to achieving two billion words hopefully by the end of the six weeks! Always a book in hand, Anthony is a fanatic of Greek Mythology and hopes to write his own stories one day as well and become a published author in the future!

AROUND OUR TOWN

LA JOYA ISD *THE DIAMOND NEWS* | 2019-2020 **ISSUE 1**



LA JOYA HS *Cosmetology Students* OFFER FREE HAIRCUTS TO THE COMMUNITY



Cosmetology students gave free haircuts to the community, preparing them for back to school, & La Joya High School graduate Isaac Galvan returned to his alma mater to provide free haircuts to the community.

Student's in Mrs. Gloria Cantu's Cosmetology class at La Joya High School treated the community to complementary haircuts during this year's Back to School Bash at La Joya High School. Isaac Galvan, owner of Isaac's Barber Shop in Sullivan, TX and former cosmetology student and graduate from La Joya High School, also joined the effort among Enlightened Barber Academy (Joel Garcia) from McAllen, and TIMS from Palmview, TX. Through this event, students gained real world experience, an opportunity to develop their customer service skills, and a deeper sense of community. Mrs. G. Cantu, who is also a graduate from La Joya High School, believes that it is important to remember our roots and encourages her students to return after they graduate to continue to give back to the community that saw them grow into professionals in the industry.

WE ARE *Rosendo Benavides* ELEMENTARY"

Many have had the great opportunity to either have attended or worked at Rosendo Benavides Elementary. It is quite surprising to see how many of you have a connection to our campus. Simply ask your neighbor, friend or coworker about Rosendo Benavides Elementary and it is highly probable that at one point they were part of our family. "In the last 4 weeks, I have met many La Joya ISD staff members, parents and individuals from our community that are eager to offer their support" said Dr. Romeo Benavidez, Campus Principal. La Joya and Sullivan City residents hold a special place for Rosendo Benavides Elementary. We are truly a diamond that is ready to shine brighter than ever!



Remembering 9/11/2001 AT GONZALEZ ELEMENTARY



On Wednesday, September 11, 2019 the students at Gonzalez Elementary attended a ceremony in remembrance of 9/11. The ceremony was student- lead by masters' of ceremony 5th graders Anthony Silva and Andrea Medina. The duo took turns presenting the speakers, the choir, and the honored guests. Amongst the speakers were 5th grade students Rodrigo Lopez and Kimberly Reyes who read on Patriot Day. They explained the events and after math of 9/11 as they shared the message behind the meaning of Patriot Day. The honored guests included La Joya's very own I.S.D. Police Officer Luis Salinas and from Med-Life ambulance company, two EMS Paramedics attended. Officer Luis Salinas shared his personal experience on where he was on the day of September 11, 2001. He explained to the students that this event changed the division amongst first responders, and that because of 9/11 all agencies have become one strong force. He also let the

students know that choosing a career in law-enforcement would mean helping out people at all cost. His words inspired as the show of hands rose when he asked how many wanted to be a police officer when they grew up. The Med-Life paramedics also contributed their version of 9/11, and the impact it had in their lives. They shared their personal stories on what they experienced that day of 9/11/2001. They both expressed that 9/11 was the cause of their career choice. They expressed to the students their job description and a behind the scenes on what goes on in the life of paramedics. They too had an impact on the student body based on the number of hands that went up when asked who would choose paramedics as a career. The students also viewed a short video on 9/11, and they listened to beautiful songs performed by the choir. Remembering 9/11 at Gonzalez Elementary made an impact on the student body, as they learned about an event in their nation that will never be forgotten.

COME ONE COME ALL!
LET'S CELEBRATE FALL AT

ACADEMY OF HEALTH SCIENCE
PROFESSIONS & STEM

FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 24, 2019 | 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
ABRAHAM LINCOLN BUILDING COURTYARD
801 N. COLLEGE DR. LA JOYA, TEXAS

FOOD, GAMES, PRIZES, A
HAUNTED HOUSE AND FUN!

All Proceeds will go to Student Organizations
& Student Activity Fund

ACADEMIES

LA JOYA ISD *THE DIAMOND NEWS* | 2019-2020 **ISSUE 1**



STUDENTS IN THE T-STEM ACADEMY AT JUAREZ-LINCOLN

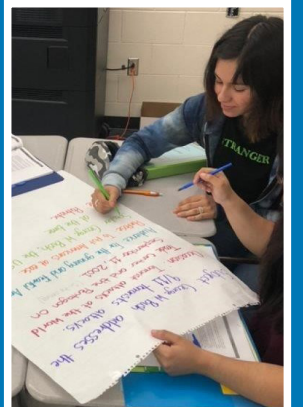
Kick-Off Senior Year

Juarez-Lincoln T-STEM Academy seniors have been rigorously working on their research topic proposals. Seniors submitted their rough drafts in mid-September and are looking to submit their final letter to the T-STEM Academy Director by the end of September. The Academy administration look forward to the final products students will be submitting. The students also analyzed their AutoCAD research draft designs during their engineering class. Student to student teaching has been successful in the past, and students look to continue the process by applying their 21st Century skills. We commend our students and our teachers for the excellent job they are doing to ensure our students leave our school, college, career and workforce ready.

PALMVIEW T-STEM

Students at Work

Exciting new weekly lessons are happening at Palmview High School T-STEM Academy. Students have been engaged in career exploration, Math content review, Science and Social Studies lessons, as well as ELA poetry with technology integration. The students in English III AP worked on analyzing former President Bush's 9/11 speech and completed a graphic organizer as a precursor to a rhetorical analysis essay. The students completed this activity in order to better understand rhetoric in everyday lives and history. Students were in "Starbucks Mode" as they listened and watched videos about "Unit 0". Students have been exposed to independent work strategies to prepare them for college. They also have guided notes they fill in while watching the videos. At Palmview High School T-STEM Academy, staff is always looking for new and innovative ways to present the curriculum to students. The 2019-2020 School Year has been off to a great start!



LOBO PARENTS ATTEND

Senior Parent Night

On September 17, Palmview High School hosted a Senior Parent Night for graduating seniors. More than 100 parents attended the meeting to receive information on upcoming deadlines for scholarships, and college entrance exams. Parents received a copy of La Joya ISD's Senior checklist to assist students to stay on track as they transition from high school to a university/college. Parents were informed of upcoming future events such as FAFSA night in early October, as well as career days. If you would like information on upcoming events for your high school senior, please call your high school counselor at your convenience.



LJHS ACADEMY STUDENTS

Gear Up FOR HIGH SCHOOL



La Joya High School TSTEM and FORD NGL Academy Students signed their commitment to graduating in 4 years. Mr. Antonio Cano, campus principal, met with the Class of 2023 the 3rd week of school and went over District and Campus academic and behavioral expectations. Students received information about the dress code, student code of conduct, clubs and organizations, as well as extra-curricular participation, attendance, and overall experience at La Joya High School. We look forward to the fruitful and productive years the Class of 2023 will have at La Joya High School these next 4 years.

PHS T-STEM STUDENT SPENDS SUMMER

at Harvard University



Student Xavier Piña represented Palmview High School T-STEM Academy and Mariachi "Los Lobos" at Harvard University during the summer. He spent seven weeks at Harvard University taking several courses in the span of seven weeks during June and July. These courses granted him four credit hours at the university level. Xavier took courses in the following topics- Principles of Physics, Mechanics & Physics, Electromagnetism, Circuits, Waves, Optics, & Imaging. While Xavier was there, he joined the Harvard University Orchestra, where he also advanced his music performance skills and was able to perform with the orchestra in a concert. At Palmview High School T-STEM Academy, students have the opportunity to be involved in numerous organizations where they can showcase both their academic talent, as well as their artistic talents.

We are very proud of Xavier and his accomplishments during this past summer. Xavier is a T-STEM Academy student and a member of Mariachi "Los Lobos", Orchestra, Band and the UIL Math Team. We would also like to extend our congratulations to his wonderful and supportive parents who are always supporting his initiatives.

THE ACADEMIES OF PHS HOST

Summer Bridge Program



Incoming 9th grade students at the Academies of Palmview High School participated in the annual Summer Bridge Program during the month of June. Academy students were exposed to accelerated curriculum to prepare them for the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSI). They also received lessons in preparation for high school classes through their College Success class. La Joya ISD partnered with College 1st and provided a camp for T-STEM and Ford NGL students. They engaged in creative activities, as well as hands on opportunities in their career of interest. Summer Bridge is a great opportunity for incoming 9th grade students to become familiarized with their campus layout, as well as the opportunities available. Academy students were ready to start the new school year after attending Summer Bridge. At the Academies of Palmview High School we value the importance of career and skill building.

DPS Trooper

VISITS JL HS FORD NGL STUDENTS

Ford NGL Students in Mr. Jesus Macias' Law Enforcement Classes received a special visit from one Texas State Agency, Texas DPS Trooper Sergeant Maria Martinez visited the campus on September 1st to discuss career options in the field of law enforcement, specifically with the Texas Department of Public Safety. Students had the opportunity to interact with Sergeant Martinez on different topics involving law enforcement, law enforcement processes and the education and background needed to become a Texas State Trooper.



Texas State Trooper Maria Martinez speaks to students in Mr. Jesus Macias' Law Enforcement Class at Juarez-Lincoln HS.

JLHS ACADEMY STUDENTS ATTEND

Summer Bridge Program



Students work on critical thinking skills, problem solving skills and teamwork in the construction of a marble maze. The objective was to create the longest maze for a marble to finish going through.

The Juarez-Lincoln High School Ford NGL Academy got off to a great start this past summer. Students participated in the Juarez-Lincoln Academies Summer Bridge Camp for 2 weeks, where they studied and practiced for the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSI) to qualify to take dual credit classes through South Texas College. Student also visited the Pecan Campus in McAllen to learn about the classes and degrees offered, as well as on how to manage their time between studying and socializing. Students were also treated to College 1st program activities that centered around their law enforcement career such as finger latent printing, blood splatter, and crime scene investigations. Students will be exposed to various career choices through various initiatives available at the Academy of Public Service at Juarez-Lincoln High School.

FAMILY CONNECTION

LA JOYA ISD THE DIAMOND NEWS | 2019-2020 ISSUE 1



Attention Parents:
GEAR UP IS NOW WITH THE LA JOYA HIGH SCHOOL 9TH GRADE CLASS OF 2023!

GEAR UP is about helping students get ready to be successful in college and beyond.

Attend our monthly meetings to learn more.

For more information please contact:
Mrs. Jacqueline Garza-Lara : j.garza22@lajoyaisd.net
Ms. Kristina Villarreal: k.villarreal@lajoyaisd.net

¡ATENCIÓN PADRES DE LA JOYA HS, GEAR UP AHORA ESTÁ CON LA CLASE DE NOVENO GRADO DE 2023!

Gear UP ayuda preparar a los estudiantes para que sean exitosos en el colegio. Ven a las reuniones mensuales para estar más informado.

Para más información por favor comunícate con:
Mrs. Jacqueline Garza-Lara : j.garza22@lajoyaisd.net
Ms. Kristina Villarreal: k.villarreal@lajoyaisd.net

TEACHERS & ADMINISTRATORS VISIT THE *Community*



Pictured (l to r): 1st Grade Teachers visit with parent, Ms. Maricruz Waldo and her children Sergio & Jaime, while the Kindergarten Team visits with parent, Mrs. Gabriela Zuñiga.

Parental involvement is a critical component to student success. With this in mind, the administrators and staff at Sam Fordyce Elementary see the value and importance in building relationships with our students, parents and community. These past few weeks, teachers and administrators have been conducting home visits to show their appreciation to our parents for everything they do on a daily basis to support us as partners in education. These home visits have been rewarding for both parents and staff. Parents have the opportunity to ask questions and our teachers and administrators are there to offer help in any way they can. Parents are encouraged to attend school meetings, ask questions when necessary and use available resources at our school to help their children as well as themselves. The feedback we have received from these visits has been positive as stated on parent Lupita Salinas's comment on our Facebook Page "Thank you all so much for coming out to our home and showing your care and appreciation."



Valeria Hernandez (3rd grade) and grandmother

GRANDPARENTS DAY at Diaz-Villarreal

Grandparents' Day was a festive one at Diaz-Villarreal with over 90 grandparents gathering to read with their grandchildren. Students were thrilled to be called from their classrooms to receive a special visit from Grandpa' or Grandma'. Books were given away to all students, while the adults got to enjoy a granola bar and bottled of water. The books presented were, "How To Babysit Grandpa" as well as, "Como cuidar a tu abuela" both by Jean Reagan. Students and adults alike enjoyed the adorable illustrations and cute stories. Songs and poems were also presented to the grandparents and everyone got to take a portrait with their grandchild to take home. "These are precious moments that we can share with our grandchildren. I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to spend time with my granddaughter and sharing the love of reading," says Maria Garcia, grandparent. Overall, it was a very successful event!

Abuelito Time AT ZAPATA ELEMENTARY

Two students (pictured above) Ivan Garcia, 4th Grade and Isai Coronado, 4th Grade; Joel Hernandez, 4th Grade; Aureliano Villarreal, Jr., Pre-Kindergarten

Emiliano Zapata Elementary went all out to celebrate Grandparent's Day during National Read a Book Day celebration. Grandparents were invited to join their grandchildren on September 6, 2019 at school. They had the opportunity to spend quality time with their grandchildren while eating donuts and drinking coffee with them. They enjoyed listening to the book "Abuelo y los tres osos" written by author Ana Lopez as a read aloud was given by Principal Rosa Gonzalez Vela. A craft was provided to them by School Librarian, S. Lumbreras to decorate along with their beloved grandchildren. The affection shared between each family was a memorable moment for both abuelitos and grandchildren. Grandparent's Day was a great opportunity for the students to share time with their grandparents as a custom of respect for the elders amongst our community.

Seguin CHEER & DANCE SILVER STARS

Seguin Silver Stars accompanied by Principal Dr. Cerda and sponsors Ms. Vasquez and Ms. Sandoval

Perform

The new Juan N. Seguin Cheer and Dance Silver Stars gave an incredible performance at the school's Grandparents' Day Celebration. Students joined their grandparents in a game of loteria, ate some delicious snacks, and visited the Scholastic book fair on September 20, 2019. The morning was topped off by a performance of "Echa Pa'lla" by the Seguin Silver Stars. The cheer and dance team will continue to promote school spirit throughout the year in community and district events.

PEREZ ELEMENTARY SHARES THEIR LOVE OF READING WITH Grandparents

Perez students and grandparents reading during National Read-A-Book Day. Pictured from (l to r) are: Devany Tamez (PK), Ernesto Luna (1st), Grandparents Ana and Margarito Rangel, Jose Luis Gomez III (3rd), and Clarissa Tamez (1st).



Someone once said that grandparents were like libraries, both full of great stories. Perez Elementary students were able to bring both worlds together on Friday, September 6, 2019. Grandparents were invited to come and read with the students during the day, as they celebrated National Read-a-Book Day and Grandparents' Day. Both students and grandparents enjoyed a granola bar and a beverage as they read their favorite book. What a great day it was to be at Perez Elementary.

Goodies FOR GRANDPARENTS & INTERNATIONAL DOT DAY

Sam Fordyce Elementary held its annual Goodies for Grandparents/International Dot Day on September 13, 2019. Over 150 families showed up and participated in the planned activities. Grandparents got to mingle and enjoy refreshments for the first 30 minutes of their visit; they were then joined by their grandchildren. This event was even more special this year as the ACE Folklorico Group led by Mrs. Mayra Salinas, prepared a special dance just for them. Grandparents enjoyed the performance and the recital of the poem titled "Mis Abuelos" by 4th grade UIL Spanish Poetry student Delayla Flores. After the performance, they listened to the story The Dot by Peter Reynolds to know how the idea for International Dot Day came about. To culminate the event, grandparents and children worked on an arts and crafts activity and visited the library.



1st Grader Joamy Soto with her grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Soto & 1st Grader David Garza with his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Ornelas.



GRANDPARENTS Day 2019



Congratulations!

LA JOYA ISD CAMPUSES *that earned an* "A" RATING FROM

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



William J. Clinton
Elementary
94



Enrique "Kiki"
Camarena Elementary
93



Tabasco
Elementary
93



Evangelina Garza
Elementary
90

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Ann W. Richards
Middle School
91

OVERALL RATING ON THREE DOMAINS



Student Achievement



School Progress



Closing the Gaps

TEA Accountability Ratings Reflect a Commitment to:
recognizing high student achievement recognizing the
impact of highly effective educators maintaining focus
on students most in need.

HIGH SCHOOL



Thelma Rosa Salinas STEM
Early College High School
98



Jimmy Carter Early
College High School
95



CAMPUSES EARNING ALL POSSIBLE DISTINCTIONS

Enrique "Kiki" Camarena
Elementary
6 out of 6
ELA/Reading, Mathematics,
Science, Academic Growth,
Closing the Gaps,
Postsecondary Readiness

Memorial
Middle School
7 out of 7
ELA/Reading, Mathematics,
Science, Social Studies, Academic
Growth, Closing the Gaps,
Postsecondary Readiness

Ann W. Richards
Middle School
7 out of 7
ELA/Reading, Mathematics,
Science, Social Studies, Academic
Growth, Closing the Gaps,
Postsecondary Readiness



SCHOOL BOARD

Esperanza "Espie" Ochoa, President
Mary T. Hernandez, Vice-President
Oscar "Coach" Salinas, Secretary
Nereyda Cantu, Member
Armin Garza, Member
Claudia Ochoa, Member
Alejandro "Alex" Cantu, Member



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Gisela Saenz, Superintendent of Schools
Joel Treviño, Asst. Super. for Admin. & Finance
Magda Villarreal, Asst. Super. for Curriculum & Instr.
Martin Muñoz, Asst. Super. for Human Resources
Jose Luis Morin, Asst. Super. for Operations
Ricardo Villarreal, Asst. Super. for Student Svcs.