



the weekly INSIDER

Childhood Cancer
Awareness Month

The Golden Heart Project



The Golden Heart Project recently held a ceremony at Arndt Elementary to honor Pre-Kinder-gartener Amaly Aguilar Estrada, who is a leukemia survivor. The Golden Heart Project, founded by cancer survivor Janee Villarreal, is an organization that brings awareness to childhood cancer. Amaly Aguilar Estrada was diagnosed with leukemia when she was about a year and a half old. Throughout her battle, her parents Diana Estrada and Gerar-

do Aguilar, worked with doctors to ensure that their daughter would overcome this heartbreaking disease. Thankfully, Amaly is now healthy and cancer free. She loves attending Pre-Kinder and running around outside. September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month and students at Arndt Elementary showed their support to Amaly and all childhood cancer patients and survivors, by wearing yellow to the ceremony.

♦Remember to use **#WeAreUnitedISD** our official hashtag on everything you share on your school's social media; the community would love to know what their children are achieving.

Superintendent's Corner

Greetings United ISD Employees,

As the weather begins to cool down, ever so slightly, our District and campus events are beginning to heat up. Soon, our students will be recognized for their outstanding efforts, in both academics and extra-curricular activities. Remember that each of you plays a pivotal role in their success. Whether you are in the classroom or in a support department, our successes in our departments are collectively conducive to our students' success.

The nomination period for our League of Legends program is slated to open up on October 1, 2019 and we have so many former students who have become pillars of their community. Please consider nominating former graduates (class of 2015 or before) of our four high schools who have gone above and beyond either in their professions or our community.

I also want to take a moment to remind all of our employees to take care of yourselves. Through our partnership efforts, the district is able to provide our employees no cost vaccinations for the flu, shingles, pneumonia and tetanus.

In addition, Catapult Health Screenings are being set up at the campuses and throughout various departments across the district. I highly encourage you to take advantage of these services.

As a final point, I would like to recognize each of you for the phenomenal efforts you put forth every day. The accomplishments of our students and our District are shining examples of just how dedicated each of us are to providing our students with a superior education.

Regards,

Roberto J. Santos

Muller Elementary Holds Childhood Cancer Awareness Parade



First graders at Muller Elementary display the banner they created to honor Juan Nevarez.



Juan Nevarez is surrounded by his family, teacher, principal, and U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Muller Elementary held a school-wide parade to honor one of its own students. Muller Elementary student, Juan Nevarez, was diagnosed with Leukemia last year and is well on the road to recovery. The stu-

dents, faculty, and staff organized a parade in which Juan, along with his family, would be the Grandmaster(s). The students of Muller Elementary marched around campus waving posters and banners that they creat-

ed themselves in support of Juan. In addition to Juan's family and Muller students and staff, U.S. Border Patrol agents also marched with Juan to show their support.

Centeno Elementary Celebrates Grandparents Day



R.C. Centeno Elementary promoted literacy by inviting grandparents to sit in with their grandkids and read books, while at the same time celebrating our

Centeno grandparents. In addition to grandparents day we also observed el 16 septiembre by allowing students and staff to wear their mexican attire.



United ISD Students Attend Tapia Camps at Rice



Pictured: (no particular order) Victor Dominguez, Brittany Lopez, Mark Flores, Edna Olmeda (teacher), Stephanie Carbajal, Ramiro Palacios, Cecilia Lopez, Angel Palacios, Jesus Torres.

This summer, eight students and one teacher from United ISD attended Rice University's prestigious and unique camps hosted by The Tapia Center for Excellence and Equity.

Say STEM Camp, which is sponsored by ExxonMobil, is available to rising 8th-12th graders and features a weeklong residential experience with a challenging STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curriculum.

About the Tapia Center

The Richard Tapia Center for Excellence and Equity at Rice University was founded in 1995 to promote greater participation of underrepresented minorities and women in the sciences and engineering and empower them

Campers experiment with hands-on STEM projects, like building miniature wind turbines out of household items including glue, cardstock and popsicle sticks. At the same time, students enhance their communication skills by learning how to simplify complicated STEM ideas via graphic drawings and an end-of-camp oral presentation – all while experiencing life on a college campus.

to be future leaders. The Center's founder, Dr. Richard Tapia, is internationally known for his research in the computational and mathematical sciences and is a national leader in education and outreach.

Since inception, the Tapia Center has

The professional development camp for teachers of all subjects and levels provides participants the tools to implement project-based learning—a lesson-planning method that encourages hands-on, engaging experiences—in their classrooms. Teachers who complete the program earn Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours.

provided direct training and guidance to more than 6,000 students and 2,500 teachers and educated nearly 250,000 students and professionals about the importance of diversity and representation.

TRAUTMANN Elementary

High Five Friday

with US Border Patrol Agents



U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Laredo Sector Border Community Liaison Program were at the entrances of Trautmann Elementary to meet and greet the students as they arrived to campus as part of the Laredo Sector High-Five Program. The students were surprised and enthusiastic in meeting the agents.

The agents also took the opportunity to encourage the kids to do well in school, to be good citizens, and have an incredible school year. The Laredo Sector Border Patrol is involved with activities and programs at the schools to build strong relationships while creating a friendly and positive atmosphere.

Trautmann Middle School Honors Band Earns National Distinction

The Foundation for Music announced that the Trautmann Middle School (TMS), Honors Band, under the direction of Jorge L. Garcia, has been selected as a National Winner in the Mark of Excellence/National Wind Band Honors Project. The band entered

the competition by submitting recordings of their performances, and only the top quarter of all the entries were selected as National Winners. There were a total of 320 entries representing 38 states. All competing bands received recorded and written

comments from the adjudicators and a compilation that contains recorded performances of all National Winners. The TMS Honors Band previously earned this distinction in 2017, and was named National Commended Winner in 2018.



VITA Students Visit San Antonio for IRS Career Day & Recognition



After the 2019 tax season was over, the Career and Technology Education (CTE) department organized an end-of-year Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Career Day and Recognition. Students with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) attended the Career Day and Recognition, which took place at the IRS Field Office in San Antonio, TX. First, the students received hands-on information directly from different departments of the IRS that showcased accounting, finance, auditing, criminal justice, investigation, and so much more. The IRS team actively promoted the various opportunities (outside of accounting/finance) that the IRS affords college graduates, regardless of their concentration. The students enjoyed a boxed lunch and received his or her CTE Certificate for VITA participation.

Over 100 students from all 4 high schools earned an IRS certification and volunteered with VITA. These students not only secured a certification, but also learned a skill that makes all of them workforce ready. In addition, programs like the VITA program help encourage a post-secondary pathway towards a future career in business and or accounting.

National Family Leadership, Inc. Brings Educators and Parents Together for Academic Betterment of Students

United ISD campuses participated in a multiple day National Family Leadership Inc., program at the SAC. Groups of campus teams trained interactively to become parent mentors based on the Parenting Partners model. "During the institute program, teachers and administrators work with parents to build a collaboration that helps parents develop leadership and communication skills. In turn, parents will be able to empower their children's academic success", said Rebecca Coss-Morales, United ISD Executive Director of Federal & State Programs. The local F.L.I. program was led by Patty Bunker, Founder and National Director for Parenting Partners- Parent and Engagement Training. Ms. Bunker is also a family counselor, national conference workshop and keynote speaker, university professor, and author of two best-selling parenting books.



One of several sessions held during the recent F.L.I. program



Parenting Partners Executive Director David Bunker led a segment of the family leadership program.



L-R: Sara Hernandez, UISD Federal Programs Coordinator; Patty Bunker, Founder and national Director for Parenting Partners; Rebecca Morales, UISD Executive Director of State & Federal Programs.

SOMETHING ABOUT U



Meet Dorothy Montemayor

Q&A

How many years have been with United ISD?

I have been with United ISD for 15 years. This is my 16th year! I am an 8th grade Teacher at Antonio Gonzalez Middle School.

Describe your job in three words?
dynamic (always changing), active, lively!

What has been the best advice you have ever given your students?
I've told numerous students to think outside the box - do what hasn't been done. Be that pioneer, that person who's innovative.

What is one skill or talent that people would never guess you have?
People would never guess that I'm actually a licensed Zumba instructor. I'm good at it but people don't realize it because I don't stand out much.

Who has influenced you in life?
As cliché as it sounds, the Lord has been the biggest influence; I've led much of my life without religion, but once I came back to the Lord, my outlook has changed.

Quote of The Week

Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits.

Author Unknown.