

SPRING 2014 | Vol. 2, No. 2

Experience HCISD

THE MAGAZINE



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**HARLINGEN
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MESSAGE

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I am proud of the collaborative effort our family and community have put forth as we have come together to shape our school system for the next three to five years. That effort reached another milestone as our Board of Trustees adopted our strategic plan, "Transforming Learning for Global Achievement" during their regular February board meeting.

We will now move forward in implementing initiatives that will directly impact student instruction, making it individualized, rigorous, engaging, and aligned with college and career readiness for current and future generations. We want to inspire learners for a lifetime in this district, and we plan to do so responsibly and innovatively.

The mission for our family is to provide educational excellence for all students, while providing students with choices for a meaningful and successful life. We need to rally around this plan, and to advocate for

the forthcoming transformation. To help you share the message with our community, we have created some resources with more details on "Transforming Learning for Global Achievement." On your campus, you should find a poster listing the goals of this strategic plan and pamphlets detailing this program. We also ask that you please visit www.hcisd.org/transforminglearning for details.

We have the right people in place here to create world-class schools that improve the quality of life for all students. Thank you for your commitment to the mission and your support of HCISD students and schools.

Dr. Art Cavazos

Dr. Art Cavazos

Superintendent of Schools



www.hcisd.org/transforminglearning

The best way to predict your
future is to create it.

— Abraham Lincoln

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DISTRICT Wellness

HCISD family members achieve fitness goals

With health and wellness front and center at HCISD, members from our learning community take time to answer questions on how they reached their fitness goals and the advice they can give to others about staying active.



Nina L. Garcia INTERNAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT

Describe your fitness goal (ex. run a marathon, lose weight, etc.) and the reasoning behind it?

One day I decided I had enough of all the excuses. I was at an unhealthy weight, tired, and had no energy. My first goal was to just lose a few pounds. I started walking and watched what I ate. Day by day, step by step I increased

my mileage and found ways to eat healthier options of the foods I love. Eventually I worked my way up to jogging. When I started to see the progress, it ignited a fire and a drive that I couldn't stop. I began trying different exercise classes to keep my routine exciting and fun. Just recently I joined RuNsane Running Team to help me complete my second goal, running my first half marathon. I wanted to ensure that I was held accountable for staying active and to surround myself with others that are on the same journey.

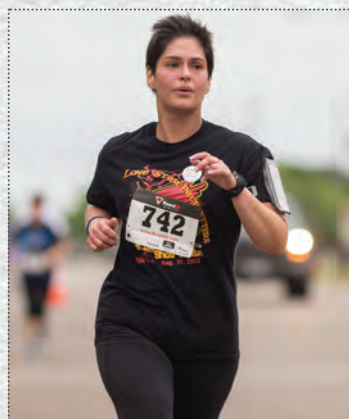
What was your biggest obstacle in achieving your fitness goal and how did you overcome that?

My biggest obstacle in achieving my fitness goal was time management. I discovered that in order to achieve my goals I needed to plan ahead, just like with anything else. I made my health and fitness my priority. That meant I cooked and prepped my meals so I wouldn't make bad food choices or get tempted to grab something unhealthy when I was hungry. Plus I always made sure I had gym clothes in my car. I made it a point to work out immediately after work, because we all know once we get home how easy it is to make a thousand excuses not to workout. When I made the choice to run my first half marathon I made time for training. Whether it be early morning, nights, or weekends. This was my time to prove to myself what I was capable of and worked so hard for.

What is one piece of advice you would give to someone trying to reach a similar fitness goal?

The best advice I can give is take your time. There is no quick fix. The key to success is consistency. We all have our good days and our bad days but just keep going. Make small goals for yourself, and find something that works for you. The feeling of accomplishment is so

satisfying and it will only propel you to reach for bigger goals. Most importantly, don't compare yourself to others. We are all different! Your health and fitness is for YOU and no one else. Join a gym, a running team, boot camp, or form a group for support. Making those connections with others that are supportive, motivating, and enjoy the same activities that you do will make it fun. It's all about the goals you set for yourself and accomplishing those goals. The next goal I have set for myself is running a FULL MARATHON!



Marcela Fernandez BONHAM ELEMENTARY

Describe your fitness goal (ex. run a marathon, lose weight, etc.) and the reasoning behind it?

After a yearly physical in September 2011, I decided to make some lifestyle changes in order to reach a healthy body weight and reduce my risk of developing health problems such as diabetes.

I began by signing up for and attending weekly Weight Watchers meetings. I removed over 60 pounds and reached my healthy weight goal in December 2012. I attribute my success at maintaining a healthy weight to regular exercise and a sensible (not prohibitive) diet- pretty boring- but making sustainable lifelong changes is what it takes!

What was your biggest obstacle in achieving your fitness goal and how did you overcome that?

The biggest obstacle continues to be making good choices even when I don't feel like it, or when it is not so convenient. It's difficult to fit in exercise some days, but I know that I feel so much better when I do it! I have learned to make planning ahead a priority.

What is one piece of advice you would give to someone trying to reach a similar fitness goal?

Give up the idea of a "quick fix" and choose to be patient and persistent to make sustainable improvements in your health and wellness. Set small goals to help you celebrate success along the way to your big goal(s)- that's the secret to staying motivated!

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Harlingen offers students access to world-class medical professionals.



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Academic rigor will be the focus as all coursework will be pre-AP or AP level, aligning students with college readiness standards.



Students will have access to the athletic and fine arts programs for students at traditional HCISD middle schools and high schools.



Each school of study will have its own specialized classroom that features learning tools designed to teach skills for the corresponding professions.



Instruction will be integrated with ACT, SAT, and post-graduate entrance exam (MCAT, DAT, OAT, PCAT, etc.) preparation.

Harlingen offers students close proximity to several leaders in the health care industry, including Valley Baptist Health System, Harlingen Medical Center, and the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley's new medical school, which will offer medical students training during their third and fourth years of school here in Harlingen.

Health and Education Services

is one of the top industries in Cameron County, accounting for 23 percent of the 116,500 jobs in the county, according to the Harlingen Economic Development Corporation.

Students at Harlingen School of Health Professions will learn from professional advisors through partnership and work-study programs with Harlingen's medical community.

OPENING FALL 2014

Located at 2302 N. 21st Street next to Memorial Middle School, Harlingen School of Health Professions will train students for all types of medical careers; however, the high academic rigor of the coursework is set to prepare students for competitive admission into elite college programs that are aligned with medical schools.

Learn more at www.hcisid.org/HSHP



Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, disability, or any other legally protected status in employment or provision of services, programs, or activities.

DIGITAL Summer RESOURCES

As summer months draw near, it's important for students to keep their minds and their bodies active. "By continually stimulating brain activity through learning, students stay prepared to have a strong start during the next school year," said Superintendent Dr. Art Cavazos. To help students at the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District stay on the path toward success, we showcase a list of digital applications that parents/students can download on their smartphones, tablets or computers to help minds of all ages stay sharp. Also highlighted is the district's digital library collection, which gives students the opportunity to checkout the e-version of today's most popular books at no cost.

eBooks

Harlingen CISD has an exciting collection of eBooks for your child. Our eBooks are available in several formats and most can be downloaded to your device so you can have access even when you are away from the internet. **Rourke Interactive eBooks** (93 interactive titles, English and Spanish,

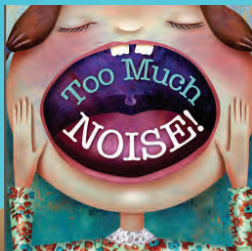
PK- 5th grade interest) can be used with any device having internet access. These books highlight words as the story is read aloud. **Rourke eBooks** (1,240 titles, English and Spanish, PK-12th grade interest) and **OverDrive** (1,976 titles, English and Spanish, PK-12th grade interest) have eBooks that

can be read online or downloaded to your digital device. Look for OverDrive's app for the easiest access. All of these resources and more can be found at <http://www.hcisid.org/virtuallibrary>.

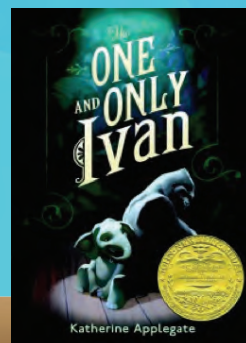


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(Rourke eBooks)*



*3rd-5th grade
(OverDrive)*



*6th-8th grade
(OverDrive)*



*9th-12th grade
(OverDrive)*

Mobile Apps

Elementary



Sushi Monster

Practice your math skills with Sushi Monster! This interactive app helps with whole number addition and multiplication.



DIY Sun Science

Learn more about science and the sun with this app! Explore the app to find hands-on activities to complete during the summer.



StarFall Learn to Read

Learn how to read with Zac the Rat!



Splash Math

Reinforce math concepts with this collection of fun and interactive math problems aligned with Common Core Standards.

Middle School



BrainPop

Bring learning to your fingertips! Watch a different animated movie every day, then test your knowledge with an interactive quiz!



Bookworm Hero

Build words and become a Bookworm Hero! Play against your friends and challenge them to a game.



Geography Quiz Game

Brush up on your geography skills by using this app. Play games against your friends and challenge them. Set up tournaments to see who is the Geography Quiz Master!



Duolingo

With Duolingo, you learn different languages while having fun, competing with friends, and leveling up!

High School



iMovie

Create movies on your iPad with iMovie! Use the green screen feature to put yourself anywhere in the world and create video works of art!



SkyView Free – Explore the Universe

Point your iPhone, iPad, or iPod to the sky to identify stars, constellations, satellites, and more!



Mathemagics – Easy Algebra Fast

Practice your algebra skills this summer with the Mathemagics App!



Paper by FiftyThree

Do you love to draw and write? Use Paper on your iPad or iPhone and keep a journal of your favorite drawings and notes!

Productivity/Study Apps



iTunes U

The iTunes U App gives you access to complete courses from leading universities and other schools – plus the world's largest digital catalog of free education content.



Edmodo

Collaborate and communicate with your teacher in the summer!



Microsoft Office Apps (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Harlingen High School

Peter Coneway '62

Investment Banker

As a former Ambassador to Switzerland and Lichtenstein and current Investment Banker in Houston, HHS Alumnus Peter Coneway began his journey in the schools at the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District. Graduating in 1962, he played Cardinal football and while in high school was selected as a representative for the Boys National Conference. While attending the University of Texas at Austin, he served as the Vice President for the Student Body and Friar's Club. After graduating from UT, Peter Coneway journeyed through several different universities and countries before settling down in Houston. Recently, he took some time to answer questions from Experience HCISD.

What was the path you took after high school?

After graduating, I continued my education at The University of Texas at Austin. I also attended the Rotary Foundation Fellowship at the University of Hong Kong, and later enrolled at Stanford University for my MBA degree.

Working in such a competitive field, what does it mean to you to be able to say you're an alumnus of Harlingen High School and of the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District?

I am proud of the fact that I attended public schools in Harlingen, which produced many outstanding scholars who attended universities such as The University of Texas at Austin,

Rice University, Baylor University, and other Ivy League schools.

How did your experience in the classrooms at HCISD help prepare you for college and your career?

My Harlingen classroom experiences, particularly participating in sports, taught me that teamwork is critically important in any competitive endeavor. I also learned that appreciating diversity, in terms of race and economic status, is important in the global competitive environment.

Becoming a Managing Director and former US Ambassador to Switzerland must involve many trials and tribulations. What knowledge have you taken away from these ventures?

Having graduated from Harlingen High School, The University of Texas at Austin, Stanford University's Graduate School of Business, and benefitting from the experience as an Ambassador of Good Will through the Rotary Foundation Fellowship Program, prepared me for my service as the U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and Lichtenstein, after being appointed by President George W. Bush. Of equal importance were my travels the summer after graduating from UT, when I earned a trip to Europe and through the Middle and Far East as Vice President of The University of Texas student body. During that time, I was in charge of the UT student summer travel program and spent time

in Israel, Iran, Pakistan, India and Thailand. I concluded my journey in Hong Kong.

The experiences as a partner at Goldman Sachs, my service as the U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and Lichtenstein, and now as a Managing Director at Riverstone Holdings have enforced my belief that a solid and proper education is a necessity to be able to compete in the global arena – be it business, education, politics or public service.

What advice would you give other students from Harlingen pursuing careers in business or any other field?

Always keeping in perspective the other person's point of view, agenda, and objectives is crucial in any negotiation – be it in a business setting, the geo-political/diplomatic arena, or in deliberations involving community service with institutions such as those in the arts and sciences, higher education, or the health care industry.



HCISD SNAPSHOT

Schools Attended:

Austin Elementary, Gay Jr. High School, and Harlingen High School

Favorite Teachers:

Jim Werner and Mrs. Keesler

Favorite Subjects:

American History and Math

LEFT: HHS Alumnus Peter Coneway serves as a Managing Director at RiverStone in Houston, and previously served as the United States Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein from 2006-2008.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Harlingen High School South

Michael McMillin '04

Civil Litigation Attorney

As a graduate from Harlingen High School South, The University of Texas and Harvard Law School, Michael McMillin made his way to the top after beginning his education at Harlingen CISD. As a former Speech, Drama, and Debate competitor, McMillin pursued a future as a Civil Litigation Attorney. In 2009, he earned his BA in Plan II Honors and History, and his BBA in Business Honors and International Business and now works for Andrews Kurth, LLP in Austin, TX. Recently, McMillin took some time out of his day to answer some questions for Experience HCISD.

Having graduated from one of the most prestigious law programs in the nation, what does it mean to you to be able to say you're an alumnus of Harlingen High School South and of the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District?

It means that being from a small town like Harlingen does not limit where you can go and what you can achieve. It means that anyone from Harlingen can go wherever they want to go in life. Most of my law school classmates were from New York, D.C., and Los Angeles. Many of them went to elite private schools from the time they were born, and the Ivy Leagues for college. But when it came down to it, they were no more prepared for Harvard Law than I was. Being from Harlingen and going through HCISD proved

to me that you can do anything if you make the most of the opportunities available to you.

How did your experience in the classrooms at HCISD help prepare you for college and your career?

Beyond giving me the base of knowledge that helped me make my way through the first few years of college, high school gave me an opportunity to figure out what I was really good at- speaking and arguing. That inspired me to join the UT mock trial team, which sparked an interest in law school. If not for the things I learned about myself at HCISD, I would not have chosen my career path at all.

What memory gained from your time in Harlingen has had the greatest impact on who you are today?

The high school memory that has the greatest lasting impact on me is winning 7th place at the national speech/drama/debate tournament in Salt Lake City my senior year. That, along with attending high school debate's Tournament of Champions, gave me proof going forward that I was ready and able to stand toe-to-toe with anyone in the country.

Becoming a civil litigator must involve many trials and tribulations. What knowledge have you taken away from these ventures?

I have learned that hard work and dedication are more important than raw talent, and that every job worth doing is worth doing correctly. There

comes a point that no matter how talented you are, you will not be able to achieve your goals unless you have the grit to bear down and power your way through the challenges ahead of you. Whether that means preparing for weeks for a final exam or staying at work for as long as it takes to do the job right, there comes a time that everyone is tested. The key is recognizing those times and making sure that you are up to the challenge.

What advice would you give other students from Harlingen pursuing careers in law or any other field?

First, find some activity that you are interested in and that you enjoy. Then, worry about how to turn that into a career. Too many people focus on the end game ("I want to be a doctor") without thinking about all the steps that it will take to get there (chemistry, multiple years of graduate school, etc.). I didn't know what I wanted to be when I grew up until my last year of college. I think that might have even been helpful, because it's not all about where you end up. It's also about whether you enjoy the journey.



HCISD SNAPSHOT

Schools Attended:

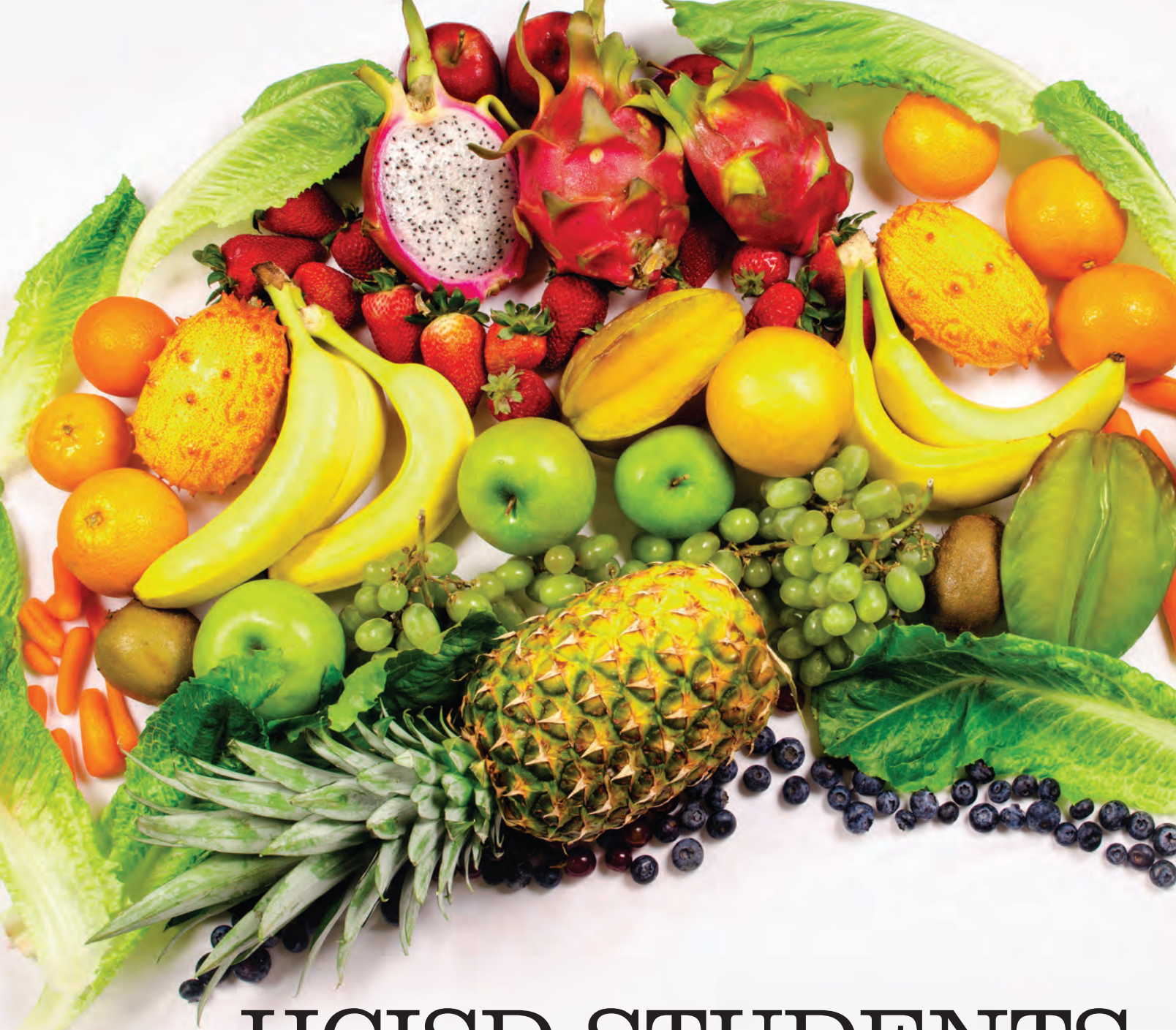
*Treasure Hills Elementary,
Coakley Middle School,
Harlingen High School South*

Favorite Teachers:

*Lee Ann Ince and
Rodolfo Monsevalles*

Favorite Subjects

Debate and Biology



HCISD STUDENTS Taste the rainbow

Walk into a classroom on any given afternoon at Bowie, Dishman, or Zavala Elementary schools and you'll see students happily snacking on fresh cucumbers, watermelon, carrot sticks or perhaps something a little more unique like a dragon fruit or an Asian pear.

The vast range of healthy afternoon snacks are provided by the Harlingen CISD Child Nutrition Department through the federally assisted Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). The FFVP helps create healthy school environments by providing healthier food choices; expanding the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience; and increasing children's fruit and vegetable consumption. Harlingen has been participating in the FFVP for over four years and has seen tremendous benefits at each of the three participating campuses.

Bowie Elementary Principal, Susan Salinas, says the program is a learning lesson not only for students but for teachers and staff.

"Many of the food items, even common ones, are new to some of the students. The program has also educated the staff to be open to the idea that children enjoy healthy foods more than some might think," says Salinas.

The goal of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is to create healthy habits in young children that will last a lifetime, such as eating and enjoying raw vegetables.

"It has been a pleasant surprise to see how the children often enjoy eating foods we least expect them to enjoy such as raw cucumbers, tomatoes, and kiwi. It's very unpredictable... It's a learning experience for us all," says Salinas.

While the program focuses on encouraging children to eat common fruits and vegetables that they can ask Mom and Dad to add to the grocery list, exotic produce is a fan favorite among students. Kiwano melon, Mangosteen, Buddha's Hand, Mandarinquats, Rambutan, and Dragon Fruit are just a few of the exciting and adventurous fruits that have made their way into classrooms participating in the program. Featured once a month, the super exotic produce sparks the

imagination of students and adults alike. The spiny skin of the kiwano melon resembles a puffer fish and the cross-section of a starfruit lives up to its name, encouraging kids to have fun with their food.

“It has been a pleasant surprise to see how the children often enjoy eating foods we least expect them to enjoy, such as raw cucumbers, tomatoes, and kiwi. It's very unpredictable... It's a learning experience for us all.”

Susan Salinas
BOWIE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL



ABOVE: A Zavala student holds up an exotic dragon fruit, which is given to students through the district's fresh fruit and vegetable program.



www.hcisd.org/child_nutrition



ABOVE: Students show off the assortment of produce available to them through the fresh fruit and vegetable program the HCISD Child Nutrition Department offers.

2014 HCISD AWARDS

The students at HCISD continued their tradition of excellence this school year by earning prestigious awards and working to make a difference in the lives of others. Below is a snapshot of their achievements so far during the spring semester of the 2014 school year.

1 HCISD Band & Choir

High school band and choir students competed at the Region 28 Solo and Ensemble competition on Feb. 22.

With their outstanding performances, 75 students advanced to the Texas State Solo-Ensemble Contest. In order to qualify, students were required to perform in front of judges and receive a first division rating.

The first division rating is the highest score a student-musician could receive.

In total, the HHS Choir had 27 members that advanced to the state level. The HHSS Choir and Band had 24 and 18 members who advanced to the state competition, respectively. Finally, the Dr. Cano Academy advanced 6 members.

2

Students competed at the state contest this past May.

Gutierrez Middle School

Working his way to the top, seventh grade Gutierrez Middle School student Matthew Garcia continues to reach new goals in his musical career. Drawing his bow over his viola to create beautiful music, his talent was recognized by one of the most prestigious musical groups in the nation. Recently, Garcia was selected as a Junior Finalist for the Honors Junior Orchestra. Auditioning with the viola, he will now have the opportunity to travel to New York City and play at Carnegie Hall. The audition process required Garcia to send in an audio recording of him performing a musical piece. Perfecting his performance, he “practiced four hours a day and recorded over and over again trying to get it where [he] wanted it”. “It’s a huge deal that Matthew was selected, I believe this is the first time this has ever happened in a Middle School and it’s a once in a life time opportunity, even for a director”, said Olga De Leon, Gutierrez Orchestra Director. After completing sponsorship requirements, Garcia

will have the opportunity to attend rehearsals with the famous director, Kurt Mouser, in New York and perform at Carnegie Hall with a vast group of other talented individuals from around the nation. “I never thought that I would come this far, it feels amazing to be able to have this opportunity,” Garcia said. Last fall, Garcia was invited to join the University of Texas at Brownsville Symphony by its director, Martha Placeres. An impressive feat considering the symphony consists of all college students and university professors. As a result of his hard work and multiple hours a day of practice, he performed with the UTB Symphony and the Horzowski Tri, a famous group of professors from Juilliard. Garcia began his musical career last year advancing to the varsity section quickly and eventually named first chair viola in the All Region Orchestra. In his second year of playing the viola, Garcia intends to continue his passion for music and rigorous schedule of practicing for four hours a day to continue the success he has seen in this short time to his high school years and beyond.

Vela Middle School

Cara Ingram, sixth grade student from Vela Middle School, is already an accomplished writer earning multiple awards for her thoughtful essays, and this spring she has added one more to her list. Ingram was recently awarded first place for her essay submission in the Region One 21st Century CLC sponsored, Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Writing Contest. Through her participation in the Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE) Program, she competed with students from 17 different districts to earn the top spot. Ingram and her competitors were asked to write an essay about their personal dream for themselves and the world and why Martin Luther King Jr. felt equality was important for everyone. To qualify for the regional level, Ingram’s essay was selected first by district judges and

then chosen by the 17 ACE District Directors from Region One. As a result of the selection process, a finalist from each grade level was selected and was then rewarded by earning the honor to represent the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program at the Mexican-American School Board Members Association (MASBA) Annual Conference at the McAllen Convention Center in McAllen Texas on Jan. 31 through Feb. 2.

Harlingen HS

Inside and outside the pool, Seton Uhlhorn,

Celeste Taniguchi, and Meredith Kuykendall swam their way to the top to achieve the title as Academic All-Stars this year. Uhlhorn and Taniguchi have recently been named Academic All Americans, as well as Academic All State along with their teammate Meredith Kuykendall. Uhlhorn and Taniguchi were both awarded this title for participating in the Harlingen High School Girl’s Varsity Swim team for at least two years, having a 3.75 non-weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) and for being seniors. Uhlhorn, Taniguchi, and Kuykendall all received the Academic All- State title for being either a junior or senior, and for having at least a 3.75 GPA. The HHS Girl’s Swim team was also awarded a National Silver Scholar team award for having a combined GPA between 3.5 and 3.75. In addition to these awards, Uhlhorn and Taniguchi both qualified for the 2014 Regional meet earlier this year. Uhlhorn qualified in the 50 freestyle, 200 freestyle relay, and the 400 freestyle relay, and 200 medley relay. Respectively, Taniguchi qualified in the 200-medley relay, 200 individual relay, and 100 breaststroke.



1



2



3



4

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2014 HCISD AWARDS

5 Harlingen HS South

Harlingen High School South Boys basketball team ended their regular season with the District 32-5A title and had a strong start to the playoff season this month.

For the District title, the team faced Harlingen High School on Feb. 7 with a score of 59 to 45.

The team ended their season with a record of 26-5.

Superintendent

6 Supporting transformation across the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District, Superintendent Dr. Art Cavazos was recently honored for his efforts to advance library services.

Dr. Cavazos was awarded the Distinguished School Administrators Award by the American Association of School Librarians, which recognizes administrators who have made worthy contributions to advancing the role of the school library in the educational program. Only the second administrator from Texas to earn the national award, he was previously named by the Texas Association of School Libraries as the recipient of the Distinguished Library Service Award for School Administrators this year.

"It's an honor to be recognized by the American Association of School Libraries for the progress our Information Literacy Centers (ILCs) have made at the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District," said Superintendent Dr. Art Cavazos. "Our ILC's play an important role in shaping our students' futures by providing them with the resources to succeed and our teachers with the tools to create meaningful and relevant learning in the classroom. Holding this honor close to my heart, I will continue to look toward the future

as our work to advance the role of library services in developing successful educational programs carries on."

A proponent of collaboration, Dr. Cavazos has been instrumental in expanding the roles of libraries and librarians to further provide students and teachers with the resources needed to enhance the learning that takes place in the classroom. The impact has been so great that they are now referred to as Information Literacy Centers, and librarians are now known as Library Media Specialists. They also carry an assortment of technological resources so that students and teachers can continue their lessons while in the ILC which is considered to be biggest classroom at any of the HCISD campuses.

"Dr. Cavazos is a champion for education whose life's work is guided by his passion for providing the best learning environment for all students," said Gerry Fleuriet, HCISD board of trustee. "We consider him to be one of the leading Superintendents in the State of Texas, and has been and continues to be an instrument for positive force for good in education."

Early College HS

7 With cheers from their classmates ringing throughout their halls, students on the Early College High School chess team further solidified the legacy of outstanding chess teams at the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District. On April 4, the ECHS team placed 19th in the nation in the High School JV Division at the at the National High School Chess Championship in San Diego. It's a first time achievement for many of the students as the club was just started two years ago. Before leaving, they were treated to a school wide celebration of their success on April 2. "At the beginning of the

year, I would have never imagined us going to San Diego," said Sam Kullmer, tenth grade student at ECHS. "We've taken huge steps this season and seen the program picking up steam." Getting to the national tournament was no easy feat with the journey beginning at the state tournament on Feb. 7. While going head to head with players from across Texas, ECHS came in second for the High School JV Division with players Amadeo F. Drysdale, Samuel Kullmer, Isaiah Rodrigues, Alex Galvan, Amir Rivera Jr., Vincent Mena, Noah C. Weston, Elijah S. Drysdale, and Ethan Esquivel. Individually, Amadeo Drysdale received fifth, Kullmer placed ninth and Rodriguez received fourteenth in the High School JV Division.

Harlingen HS

8 Feb. 4, the Harlingen High School Lady Cardinal Basketball team earned the District 32-5A Championship title after defeating Brownsville Porter in their last district game.

The game ended with a win over Porter with a score of 61-27, and the Lady Cardinals have continued to soar over the competition while maintaining a record of (25-8).

On Feb. 10, The Lady Cardinals began their playoff quest by defeating the San Benito Lady Greyhounds with a score of 53-32, at Harlingen High School. The team ended their regular season with a record of 25-8.



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COLLEGE SHOWCASE



As students at the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District get ready to graduate, the valedictorians, salutatorians, and campus organization presidents at each of the district's comprehensive high schools share their future plans.



Juan Antonio Maldonado, II
HARLINGEN HS - VALEDICTORIAN

"I plan to major in Chemical Engineering. I've been accepted to A&M College Station, UT Austin, Rice, Notre Dame, Harvard, Yale, Stanford, and MIT. However, out of all of these schools, I plan to attend the University of Texas at Austin. After college, I hope to have a successful career in Chemical Engineering and possibly return to college to attain an MBA."



Donaldo Almazan
HARLINGEN HS - SALUTATORIAN

"I will be attending Rice University and plan on gaining a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. My career goal is to develop energy technologies through research. I consider myself very blessed for the opportunity."



Gilbert Bermea
HARLINGEN HS - CLASS PRESIDENT

"I plan to attend Texas A&M University in College Station and major in Business Administration and Finance. After that I plan to pursue further education to obtain a Master's degree in Hospital Administration."

Santiago Arellano
HARLINGEN HSS - CLASS PRESIDENT

"I plan on attending Texas A&M at Corpus Christi for one year, then enroll at Texas A&M College Station to major in Communications. My end goal is to work in Public Relations with a major corporation."





Tristan Barrera
HARLINGEN HSS - VALEDICTORIAN

"I plan to attend Texas A&M University, College Station, and I plan to major in chemical engineering. I hope to get an appropriate job in the field of the major I pursue. I am a National Merit Finalist."



Paloma Flores
EARLY COLLEGE HS - VALEDICTORIAN

"I plan to go to the University of Texas- Pan American and participate in the A Prime Time B.S./ M.D. I will major in Biology for my Bachelor's degree. After I graduate from college, I plan to practice medicine. I have received several scholarships, most are related to my being named a national Hispanic scholar."



Ashley Peters
HARLINGEN HSS - SALUTATORIAN

"I plan to attend Texas A&M University in College Station and major in Business Administration at Mays Business School. I hope to secure a lucrative, fulfilling career and become a contributing member of society doing something I love. I received the Texas Student Housing Scholarship."

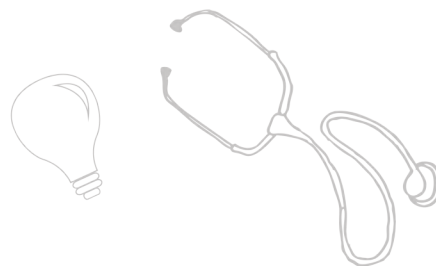
Stormie Garza
EARLY COLLEGE HS - SALUTATORIAN

"I plan on pursuing a Bachelors Degree and Masters. I hope to study biomedical engineering with a specialization in prostheses and plan on attending the University of North Texas, University of Texas at Dallas, or St. Edward's University. I hope to work in a research company that utilizes technology to advance the field of prostheses. I have received a full scholarship from St. Edward's University and tuition from University of Texas at Dallas."



Aaliyah Gonzales
EARLY COLLEGE HS - CLASS PRESIDENT

"My plans after graduation are to move to San Antonio to become a U.T.S.A. Roadrunner! I plan to pursue my bachelor's degree in communication. After I graduate from college, I intend on moving to Austin, Texas to establish my career in communication."



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PACed Performances

HCISD programs, students enjoy world-class facility for the arts

The Harlingen Cardinal Honors Band took the stage on a Friday morning in April, dressed in their black tuxedos and concert dresses. An intimate audience of parents and students from the neighboring Gutierrez Middle School band listened intently as the band performed its selection for the pre-UIL competition, an opportunity for bands to receive a pre-evaluation before their end of the year rating in concert band.

The select turnout for the 955-seat auditorium was a result of the mid-day start time; however, it was not the norm for the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District's Performing Art Center (PAC), which has drawn large regional crowds for evening and weekend competitions that have normally been reserved for small, passionate parents with the flexibility to make long commutes to watch performances. In the audience sat Jennifer Strutz, a parent of a freshman at the Dr. Abraham P. Cano Freshman Academy, who was set to perform next. She took pictures with her tablet in order to document her first time in the facility

"It's just such a gorgeous space," said Strutz, whose daughter Jennifer was preparing to take the stage with the Raven Navy Band. "I know it means a lot to the parents and students to have a space that is our own. It makes it special."

Strutz would not have been able to attend a mid-day performance if it had been in Brownsville or Donna, the typical locations for competitions prior to the opening of the PAC, she said.

"Our Performing Arts Center offers our students the opportunity to showcase their talents in a state-of-the-art facility while developing a passion and appreciation for the arts," said Superintendent Dr. Art Cavazos. "We strive to create programs, initiatives and facilities that promote the development of well-rounded individuals and benefit our community by providing an access area for enriching live performances."

UIL and the Texas Music Educators Association Regional 28 have hosted 52 events this year at the PAC. That's not including the local performances from schools and organizations that have graced the auditorium's stage since the first performance by Vernon Middle School band director Keith DiSantis performing the Star Spangled Banner during the HCISD Kickoff in August.

All of those performances would have happened in Donna or Brownsville prior to the opening of the PAC, said Marc Telles, the associate band director at HHS and the school's fine arts department chair. For music, including choir, band

and orchestra, schools work in a regional area that extends from Brownsville to Donna, putting a strain on schools, which are forced to travel to the farthest reaches of the region prior to the PAC.

"I think other school districts have benefited from the PAC because we are centrally located here in Harlingen," Telles said. "We have been able to save on travel costs because we aren't going as far and food costs because students can eat at school. Plus, we have been able to keep kids in the classroom more, which has been a great benefit."

When she first performed at the PAC, Harlingen High School South senior violist, Victoria Martinez, immediately noticed the crisp, clear sound the Hawk orchestra



ABOVE: HCISD Fine Arts students prepare to mesmerize audiences from across the Rio Grande Valley backstage at the PAC.

Our Performing Arts Center offers our students the opportunity to showcase their talents in a state-of-the-art facility while developing a passion and appreciation for the arts.

Dr. Art Cavazos
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



TOP: A Harlingen High School student creates lovely melodies for audience members during the Region 28 Orchestra Concert this year.

ABOVE RIGHT: Students show grace and poise during a performance at the PAC.

BOTTOM: HCISD choir students show off their vocal talents during the Performing Arts Center Inaugural Celebration of the Arts this spring.



made, she said. Practicing in the small auditorium and cafeteria at HHSS can make it challenging for musicians to hear each other in order to match tempo and rhythm, she explained.

“Playing at the PAC makes me feel like a professional,” Martinez said. “I think it’s really special because of the quality inside.”

Martinez struggled when she was younger to find opportunities to hear live, classical music she said. Now, elementary and middle school students can frequent the PAC to hear the high school varsity groups perform, a responsibility Martinez takes seriously as a call to inspire a new generation to be passionate for classical music.

“Everyone who has visited the Performing Arts Center, audience members, our directors, student performers and parents, have all been in awe of this beautiful venue,” said Dr.

Sabrina Quintana, the director of music education and the PAC. “It is not only lovely, but the functionality really works well for competitions, the acoustics are excellent, which lends itself to superior performances, the full fly tower and the theatrical technologies are all being put to excellent use. This ‘Jewel of the Valley’ is also very appealing to area fine arts directors and band, choir, orchestra and theater directors, who have also expressed amazement over our new Performing Arts Center.”

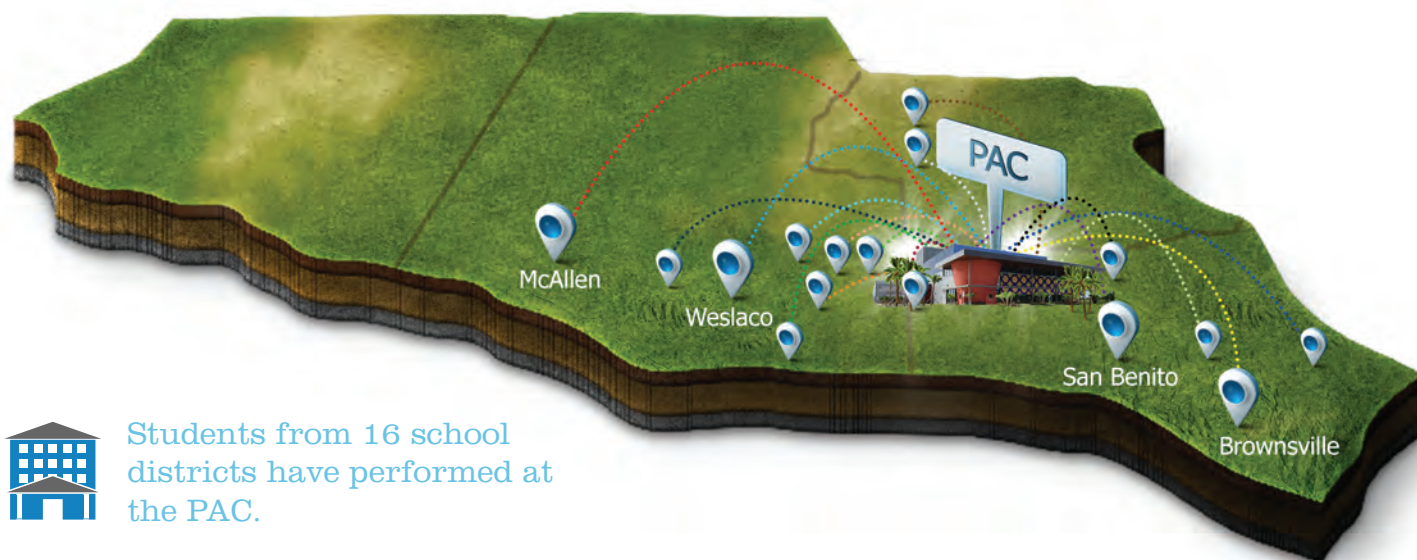
Martinez’s youngest sister, Isabella, performs with the Cano Freshman Academy Gold Orchestra, moving on to the HHSS group next year, following her sister’s footsteps, she said. Victoria plans on attending more concerts in the coming years, and she hopes the venue continues to develop into an epicenter for the arts, where Harlingen students can access quality, live performances.

“Next year and beyond, I anticipate that we will be functioning more smoothly as the staff increases and as we work together to improve upon what we are doing,” Quintana said. “The PAC has attracted so much attention, we are receiving more requests to rent the facility for special performances, festivals and other events.”

For more information on the PAC, please visit www.hcisdpac.org.



Where are the school's coming from?



Students from 16 school districts have performed at the PAC.



The PAC has hosted 19 region concerts, clinics, fine art performances and competitions since its opening in September 2013.



There are 955 seats available in the PAC for parents, community members and students to enjoy with numerous rooms backstage for performers to practice.

LEFT: Showing off her vocal range, a HCISD fine arts student takes center stage at the PAC.

BOTTOM: High school choir and band students come together for an epic final performance at the Performing Arts Center Inaugural Year Celebration.



photos.hcisid.org/music





CHESS

STORMS THE BOARD

A group of students walk through their campus halls at the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District with people high fiving and congratulating them at every corner they turn. With all of the celebration it could be assumed that the school has won the latest basketball, football, soccer or baseball championship, but in fact these students are a part of one of the fastest growing organizations in the district.

Chess is seeing a rise in popularity this year as the organization's enrollment and list of achievements have grown. For the students at Early College High School, they have seen the buzz on their campus increase after earning some of the highest honors at the state high school tournament in February.

"When we did well at state, a lot of people got interested because they know we can win and the opportunities you can get with participating," said Amadeo Drysdle, senior at ECHS. "It was pretty cool to come walking back into school and have people say congratulations. It's nice to be noticed for academics and made us feel like what we are doing is great."

Sam Houston Elementary student Gabriella Serrano has also seen a change in her confidence with the sudden boost in chess popularity.

"When I do well, people will tell me congratulations in the hall," said Serrano. "Chess makes me feel like I've done something good. I feel more confident walking around my school, and I can answer questions easier in class."

Chess makes me feel like I've done something good. I feel more confident walking around my school, and I can answer questions easier in class.

Gabriella Serrano
SAM HOUSTON 5TH GRADE STUDENT

That confidence has led Serrano to be named one of the top 100 female chess players under the age of 13 in the nation. At Dishman Elementary School, chess sponsor Claudia Pompa noticed the confidence in her students' rise, which has translated to a better performance in the classroom, she said.

"From the time that some students start the program till now, you can see a major difference," said Pompa. "They are more focused, social and ready to learn."

With their outstanding performances throughout the year, it earned ECHS, Sam Houston and Dishman a trip to their respective national chess tournament. It's a first-time opportunity for some chess students, and they looked forward to being able to spread the word about the growing

talent HCISD has.

For ECHS that meant traveling to San Diego to compete against some of the best high school chess players in April. Not skipping a beat, the team went on to place 19th in the High School JV Division



LEFT: A Dishman student strategizes his next move during his afterschool chess sessions this year.

“At the beginning of the year, I would have never imagined us going to San Diego, but we competed against some of the best students in the nation,” said Sam Kullmer, tenth grade student at ECHS. “We’ve taken huge steps this season and the program has picked up steam.”

Taking their success home, HCISD parents are sharing the positive effect the program has had on their child’s overall development. Sam Houston chess parent Priscilla Casas, mother to second grade Sam Houston student Michael Casas, said that she’s been very impressed with the impact the organization has had on her son since he started a year and a half ago.

“It’s had a huge impact on his attitude,” said Casas. “He’s so much more respectful and his grades have improved tremendously. The respect comes from the program. They work together and help each other succeed, but do it in a very cordial way. I know he’s only eight, but he’s learning the life skills that are going to help him succeed as an adult.”

If you ask Michael, who is currently ranked within the 25 elementary school chess players in the nation, he hopes for those skills to lead him to the title of Grand Master, he said. For now though he will focus on the game, which has already given him a head start to a college degree.

Michael, along with other students across HCISD, has been able to collect scholarships through their chess tournament success, said Priscilla Casas. It’s a perk that she hopes more students and parents will discover as it sets

them on the path toward college.

“As a parent, it’s been such a huge help when thinking about his [Michael’s] future,” said Priscilla Casas. “It’s putting him in the mind frame that he wants to go to college, because he can continue to play chess. With the money he has earned, we are starting a college fund and can’t wait to see him use it.”

The future looks bright for the programs at HCISD as chess students, excited to continue their chess careers, advance to the next grade levels. Their excitement is sure to be met with the district’s competitive edge initiative. The idea was to align academic competition throughout a student’s primary and secondary education by implementing district wide academic programs.

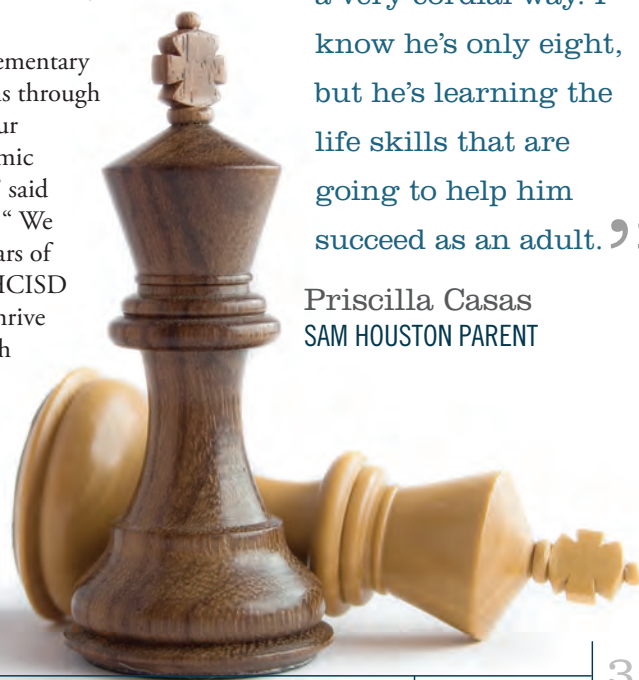
“With the alignment of our elementary and secondary academic programs through the competitive edge initiative, our students receive a focus on academic rigor throughout all grade levels,” said Superintendent Dr. Art Cavazos. “We look forward to what the next years of this initiative will bring for our HCISD chess teams as they continue to thrive and solidify their tradition of high achievement.”

CLOCKWISE ABOVE: Sam Houston students help each other check-mate the competition during their practice for the national tournament this spring.



“They work together and help each other succeed, but do it in a very cordial way. I know he’s only eight, but he’s learning the life skills that are going to help him succeed as an adult.”

Priscilla Casas
SAM HOUSTON PARENT





MORE THAN NEWSWORTHY

**Students prepare for careers working on campus,
district broadcast teams**

With students hula-hooping and throwing balls behind them, Lizeth Martinez and Emma Ramirez kept their cool and composure. Adam Ramos was counting down the seconds to airtime, and the dynamic duo from the best school in the universe has impeccable reputations for professionalism.

“We like doing the newscast because it helps us to express our talents,” Martinez said. “We like to do the newscast on location at events because its fun and makes it challenging for us.”

Six fourth grade students from Zavala Elementary make up this news team, responsible for producing weekly 10-minute broadcasts that are displayed across the school on Fridays and on the school’s YouTube page. The program serves as an enrichment opportunity that has been aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) by the program’s teachers, Beatrice Cruz, Sandra Villareal and Gracie Cabuto.

“I like to ask questions,” said Dailea Weaver, the show’s tiny interview expert with an uncanny ability to ease interviewees during seated one-on-one interviews with guest to Zavala, including Superintendent of Schools Dr. Art Cavazos. “My parents get annoyed because I ask a lot of questions, but I think its fun to interview people.”

The team works throughout the week on the broadcast, planning and producing short news packages on Monday and Tuesday, writing a script for the anchors on Wednesday and recording the broadcast on Wednesday or Thursday to be finalized by Friday. They feature special segments, like sports and wellness with correspondent Jay Garza, who’s favorite interview was when the Cardinal football team visited the campus before the Bird Bowl this past fall, he said.

Practicum program thrives for high school students

Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District features a wide variety of student video production crews, providing students with a creative outlet, a valuable enrichment opportunity and professional experience. From the Zavala News Team, the Harlingen High School South KSTV News, Harlingen High School CTV News and the KHGN Production Class News, dozens of aspiring reporters, anchors, writers, editors and designers build a professional skill set every day in HCISD.

“When the Zavala News team came to visit our studio, they were so excited to see all of our equipment,” said Dante Hernandez, a senior at Early College High School and a member of the KHGN Production Class News team. “It made us feel good and excited to see these elementary kids, the next generation, get so excited about what we get to do here at KHGN.”

Hernandez works with a team of high school seniors from all four HCISD high schools, HHS, HHSS, ECHS and KEYS Academy, serving the entire school district with news packages, promotional videos and live event coverage. The class of nine students has worked with several outside organizations, including the Harlingen-San Benito Metropolitan Planning Organization, Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas, Tropical Winds RV Resort, and Harlingen Family Dentistry. The students also operate the production team for the varsity football games at J. Lewis Boggus Stadium in the fall, working as directors, camera operators, and as graphics and instant replay controllers. The football games KHGN students produce are also aired on the HCISD cable channel KHGN TV-17 and on KGBT’s website, valleycentral.com.

“When the Zavala News team came to visit our studio, they were so excited to see all of our equipment. It made us feel good and excited to see these elementary kids, the next generation, get so excited about what we get to do here at KHGN.”

Dante Hernandez
EARLY COLLEGE HS SENIOR



ABOVE: Seniors in the KHGN Production class edit PSAs from local businesses and create real-world experiences out of classroom lessons.

“Getting to direct halftime was my favorite part of working the football games,” KEYS senior Isaiah Delgado said. “Working with the camera operators with the replay and graphics taught me that teamwork is important.”

In addition to receiving professional experience, the KHGN production students also receive the opportunity to compete with their peers across the nation through SkillsUSA.

Victoria Martinez, a senior at HHSS, felt validated after she advanced to the state finals for TV production, a competition that challenges students to create a news package on deadline, she said. For her qualifying project, Martinez and her partner, HHSS senior Alexis Gonzalez, produced a news story on the Challenger Learning Center at Texas State Technical College. Hernandez was selected to the Division 2 State Semifinals Qualifiers in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Young Filmmakers Festival for a news package he created about Stuart Place Elementary School’s Teacher of the Week selection.

“When I got to high school, I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do,” said Martinez, who plans to study film at the Art Institute of Portland in Oregon next year. “I thought I wanted to be a writer. Then I was put into the introduction to media production class and I just fell in love with it. Here in the practicum class, we work like it’s a job or an internship, but it never feels like work. It’s the best part of my day.”

Owls ready to take flight

Matthew Martinez of the Zavala News team looked like a cowboy on a sunny spring morning in the campus’ courtyard

after wrapping up another week’s show. This fourth grade student carried himself like a famous television personality with his straw hat, tall walk and his rolled up sleeves. That’s because, on the Zavala campus, the news team is famous.

“We’re like celebrities,” Martinez said. “We take it very seriously though because we know that the younger students look up to us. We always make sure we set the right example.”

Martinez watches the local news and weather stations because he wants to pursue a career in broadcast journalism, working for the KHGN Production Class in high school, he said.

“My mom used to videotape me doing the news,” Martinez said. “I like to learn and ask people questions. Being on the news allows me to do that, so I love it.”



www.youtube.com/hcisdTV



Bringing relevance to the classroom with HEROES FOR HARLINGEN

In the Information Literacy Center (ILC) at the Dr. Abraham P. Cano Freshman Academy, business leaders and teachers gathered to begin an initiative aimed at further bringing real-world experience back into the classroom.

The group kicked-off the district's Classroom Connections initiative as part of the Heroes for Harlingen program, which pairs local business leaders with teachers to participate in externships, which is a type of hands-on learning opportunity. By creating externships, the goal is for teachers to bring back their findings to the classroom to help prepare students for college and the workforce.

"The partnership that we have here today, will bring relevance to learning in the classrooms and connect our students to

the real-world application of learning," said Superintendent Dr. Art Cavazos. "We are preparing our students for the world they are going to inherit by giving them a head start in understanding the business industry and what they are looking for in not only entry-level positions but throughout the organization."

Created to meet the goals of the district's strategic plan, the Heroes for Harlingen program is designed to increase community engagement in education through community campus visits, discussions with administration and building partnerships to provide students and their families with services to enhance their lives.

"The number one economic driver in any given community is education," said President of SpawGlass Rene Capistran. "We want to

prepare students for tomorrow and know that they are the future leaders of our community."

"By educating teachers as to what we do on a day-to-day basis, we are hopeful that it will open their and their students eyes to what employers are looking for and help them determine the best path for their career," said Carlos Quevedo, Regional Sales Manager at Lone Star Bank.

Additional components of the Heroes for Harlingen program includes Ambassadors for Learning, a program that allows community partners to hold discussions with administrators at HCISD, and Caring for Kids, which aims to identify the needs of students through community partnerships.

Board of Trustees adopts school district Strategic Plan

Key details of how the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District plans to transform its schools during the next three to five years were released after Tuesday night's adoption of the district's strategic plan by its board of trustees during their regular February meeting.

Trustees approved the document titled "Transforming Learning for Global Achievement" after almost five months of planning and preparation that included input and collaboration from HCISD staff, students and community members. The strategic plan outlines new district goals, as well as specific result statements that will shape the development and implementation of new programs, renovations at district facilities and integration of new technology.

Some of the key themes from "Transforming Learning for Global

Achievement" included developing learning environments conducive for collaboration; creating curriculum to fit the individual needs of students; opening of specialized and unique schools for students at all levels of education; and to align high school programs with post-secondary endorsements and certification programs for career readiness. HCISD has published the strategic plan's goals, result statements and community responses on a website at www.hcisid.org/transforminglearning.

“Our mission is to provide educational excellence and world-class schools for all students, while providing students with choices for a meaningful and a successful life. I feel strongly that this plan will help us to inspire learners for a lifetime and I am excited to begin developing our action plans that align with ‘Transforming Learning for Global Achievement.’”

Dr. Art Cavazos
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ATTENTION BUSINESS LEADERS

HELP HARLINGEN CISD BUILD WORLD-CLASS SCHOOLS

HCISD is seeking partners from our local business community to develop innovative approaches to address educational needs of students. Building world-class partnerships was a specific call to action from our community through our strategic plan, Transforming Learning for Global Achievement. That plan included the voices of over 800 members of the community.



Visit our strategic plan website for more information on how you can help partner with our schools.



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Dr. Saucedo III M.D., FAAP

A native of Harlingen and an HHS graduate, Dr. Saucedo received his BS Degree from Texas Tech University and attended Texas Tech School of Medicine, earning a Doctor of Medicine. Completing his residency in Pediatrics at Texas Tech, he was named Resident of the Year in 2006 - 2007 and is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Texas Medical Association and the Cameron - Willacy Medical Society



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College courses are taken at no cost to the parents, allowing students to earn their academic core (approximately two years of a four-year degree plan) or an Associate's degree while in high school. College credits earned at ECHS are transferable to every public university in the state of Texas.

While ECHS offers students a chance to work in a college environment, the counselors and staff at the school work closely with students to support instruction and to develop

long-term academic and career goals.

The number one focus at ECHS is academics, but students can still enjoy a wide selection of clubs and extracurricular activities. At graduation time, students feel like they are a part of an extra family comprised of classmates who become lifelong friends. Being an Owl is a new tradition in Harlingen that includes some of the best and brightest young leaders in the state of Texas.



Learn more at www.hcisd.org/ECHS



Experience HCISD

STUDENT CONTENT

For our Spring 2014 issue, our editorial team asked teachers to submit student artwork, essays and photographs that answered the question "What inspires you in your classroom?" Some outstanding student work was submitted, and the editorial team made some tough decisions during the selection process. The team would like to thank all of the students and teachers for submitting their artwork for this issue.



Layla Lopez
5TH GRADE DISHMAN ELEMENTARY



Emma Hurtado
5TH GRADE DISHMAN ELEMENTARY



Jahdiel Navarro
HARLINGEN HS SOUTH



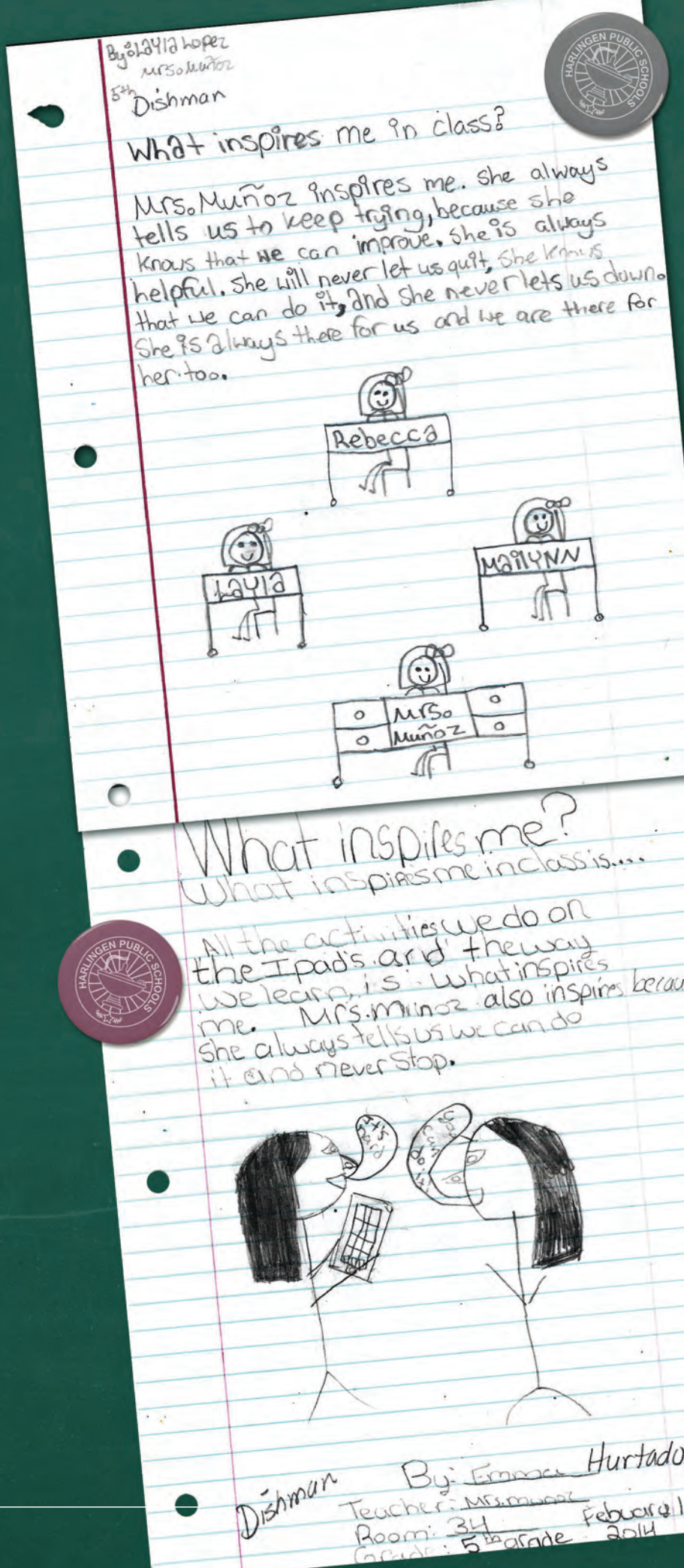
Mailyn Loera
5TH GRADE DISHMAN ELEMENTARY



Anai Gonzalez
3RD GRADE LONG ELEMENTARY



Derek Perez
3RD GRADE LONG ELEMENTARY





Jahdiel Navarro
HHSS - 12th

What inspired me in the classroom was reading. Reading and imagining all the characters in books and being able to understand words other students didn't is what really inspired me in the classroom. My favorite quote is from Margaret Fuller "Today a reader, tomorrow a leader". I would love reading so much I would wish I were an octopus to be able to read multiple books at one time.



What inspires me in class is....

How Mrs. Muñoz teaches us every lesson we do and all the activities!

I mostly like her exciting Attitude and all the music she taught us helps us a lot, but I really really like her as a teacher.

Anais Gonzalez
3rd grade

Ms. Farris class
Long Elementary

Names of what she is

funny beautiful exciting teacher Spirit loves singing



always smiling

I can't name! she and

want



What inspires you in your classroom? What inspires me in my classroom is my teacher! She teaches us a lot of stuff, like math and reading and science. She will teach us over and over again until we get it! We do science experiments and a lot of work. She is as sweet as a cupcake. That is why my teacher inspires me!



Derek Perez

Ms. Farris
3rd grade
Long Elem.

What inspires you in your classroom? My teacher and the stuff on the boards help me too, and stuff that my teacher teaches me. I learn more stuff so I can get better and that's how I'll pass other grades. I just love school.



art
speech science
music *athletics* *math*
health *professions* *drama*
debate
academics
Experience
WORLD-CLASS
SCHOOLS



HCISD allows any parent who works or owns property in our district's boundaries to send their children to our award winning schools and programs.

Students of HCISD have access to schools of choice that meet their needs, including Dual Language Academies and a Leadership Academy for elementary students; Early College High School for students looking to earn free tuition for two years of college credits; digital classrooms and Information Literacy Centers across all

campuses; and Harlingen School of Health Professions, which will allow students in 2014 to prepare for a career in the medical field through a rigorous, interactive-college-prep curriculum set to place students at the front of university admissions lines.

Eligible families need to:

- Visit HCISD's Central Administration office to pick up their Experience HCISD packet.
- Have their employer complete the simple affidavit verifying their employment.
- Submit the application and affidavit to the office of Lori Romero at the Central Administration Building.

**Information packets can be picked up at the
HCISD Central Administration Office
407 N. 77 Sunshine Strip | Harlingen, TX | 956.430.9500
www.HCISD.org/experience**