

MATADOR PRIDE



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Super Words

We are already well into the second semester of the 2016-17 school year and I hope our families enjoyed their holiday break.

Please join me in congratulating our school board officers following an approval process that occurred during the Jan. 24 school board meeting. Ishmael Flores was elected president, Cinde Thomas-Jimenez is vice president and Ben Amador is our secretary. I look forward to collaborating with our board leadership to create the best educational opportunities for our students.

Just as we came back from the holidays the Texas Education Agency, at the onset of the 85th legislative session, released what the Agency called a “what if” of campus and district performance under the new A-F accountability system that will come into play in 2018.

Newspapers across the state published articles on the new system and how Texas public schools would rate based upon their 2015-16 accountability data. While the intent of the A-F “grades” is designed to simplify the accountability system, the reality is that the new system is anything but simple. To date, more than 300 Texas school districts have formally opposed the new rating system. I too believe that the A-F system unveiled in January leaves much to be desired.

The following is a statement that Seguin ISD shared with media and posted on our District web site.

Seguin ISD acknowledges that accountability and accurately measuring student achievement are integral and necessary components of public education. However, Texas’ new A-F rating system, passed by the 84th Legislature under HB 2804, clearly is not the answer when it comes to a comprehensive and fair educational accountability system.

While official ratings under the A-F system will not be released until August 2018, the law requires that Texas school districts receive “what if” preliminary ratings based upon 2015-2016 performance data under the new program.

Based upon these preliminary ratings released by the state on Jan. 6, 2017, Seguin ISD schools received “grades” on an A-F system under a series of four “domains.”

These grades seem to reflect that Seguin ISD schools—all of which earned Met Standard in the 2015-16 state accountability system with several receiving one or more



Stetson Roane

Stetson Roane
Superintendent of Schools

Distinction Designations--would not fare well if the new system were in place today.

Seguin ISD, along with virtually all public school systems across the state, believes that research shows there is no research that supports the effectiveness of the A-F system that has been operational in other states. In other words, it does not improve student achievement and predominantly distills a student’s year of education down to annual standardized test scores. Nearly all other educational variables are largely ignored.

With the A-F labels released by the state on Jan. 6, the state has effectively demonized its own public education system that has the tremendous responsibility of educating the 5.3 million students that walk through our doors each day.

Hopefully TEA will put this round of data to good use and develop an accountability system for 2018 that is based upon continuous student improvement.

On the bright side, TEA Commissioner Mike Morath released the following statement on Jan. 6.

“The ratings in this report are for informational purposes to meet a legislative requirement and represent work-in-progress models that are likely to change before A–F ratings become effective in August 2018. No inferences about official district or campus performance in the 2015–16 school year should be drawn from these ratings, and these ratings should not be considered predictors of future district or campus performance ratings.

Our staff shared a presentation on the new A-F accountability system during the Jan. 24 school board meeting. The presentation, along with all school board presentations, may be viewed at <http://www.seguin.k12.tx.us/page/board.video>.

Go Mats!



ON THE COVER:

Students in Mrs. Ulrich’s first grade class at Vogel Elementary read “A Cookie for Santa” and baked gingerbread after reading the book. What a great way to engage students by using all their senses!

KEEP UP WITH GRADES

Parents and guardians can monitor their student’s progress through a click of a mouse by using the Parent Self Serve Portal at <http://buff.ly/1EZi9l4>.

To sign up, watch this MATTECHTV tutorial (<http://buff.ly/1EVHOLy>) that will guide you step by step through the registration process.

Questions about using Parent Self Serve Portal may be directed to the SISD Technology Department at (830) 401-8642.

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POWERLIFTING TEAMS TAKE FIRST PLACE

The Seguin High School Boys and Girls Powerlifting teams took first place at the Navarro Invitational meet on Jan. 7.



LADY TORO BASKETBALL

The Briesemeistger Lady Toro Basketball team played in the Lady Rattler Basketball Classic tournament. The seventh and eighth grade A teams won their consolation brackets. Pictured is the AJB eighth grade A team. Way to go ladies!

STUDENTS CLEAN UP CAMPUS

Seguin High School National Honor Society and Interact Club students volunteered their time on Jan. 14 to clean up around the stadium, gym and parking lots of their campus.



Silvius, center, shares the finer points of kayaking with Seguin residents during the first community camping trip sponsored by TPWD and the Texas Outdoor Family program at Garner State Park.



Silvius to head state physical education organization

Seguin ISD's Pete Silvius, P.E. and outdoor education coordinator, was elected to serve as president-elect of the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (TAHPERD) during the organization's annual convention.



Silvius

As a result, Silvius will be TAHPERD's eighty-ninth president. He previously served on the association's board of directors and as vice

president for the Recreation division.

A veteran teacher since 1998, with the last 13 at Seguin ISD, Silvius has presented at numerous conferences and received multiple awards such as the National Physical Activity Plan Alliance Champion, Texas Department of State Health Services Award for Excellence in Texas School Health and Texas Lutheran University's Distinguished Service Award.

"I'm really excited for the opportunity to represent Seguin ISD as the TAHPERD President. Seguin has a notable history of excellence in physical educa-

tion including outdoor education and lifelong sports and recreation. In my new role as president I look forward to bringing attention to the correlation of student wellness and academic achievement especially the importance of daily physical activity to student readiness for learning," Silvius said.

Silvius is not the first Seguin ISD employee to serve as TAPHERD president.

Longtime Seguin ISD educator Irma Lewis, who also served as a school board member and proponent of outdoor education, was TAHPERD's sixty-second president.

"Irma was my mentor and dear friend and to follow in her legacy is an unbelievable honor and motivation. I'm excited for the next few years of work in this role," he said.

Silvius is known throughout the community for his tireless efforts in expanding outdoor opportunities for Seguin ISD students. Most recently, he introduced hundreds of students to bicycling and kayaking. He has secured grants through Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Texas Outdoor Family program to take Seguin ISD families camping at state parks.



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MCQUEENEY DONATES TO CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD

McQueeney Elementary School Student Council officers recently raised funds and presented a \$239 check to the Christian Cupboard.



INAUGURATION DAY AT JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY

Jefferson Elementary fifth graders had the opportunity to witness the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States of America and the peaceful transfer of power. Themes taught throughout the day were patriotism, respect and unity. Mrs. Kautzsch's Reading students recalled words they had heard during this historic event to create word cloud projects with patriotic symbolism.



Star Students

Star Students are selected by their teachers for their character, dedication and willingness to go above and beyond expectations in Seguin ISD schools.

Patlan Elementary School



Colin Spencer-Dibble Kindergarten Edrick Hernandez First Grade Adrian Alzalde Second Grade



Bella Campos Third Grade Caroline Childers Fourth Grade Abram Martinez Fifth Grade

Rodriguez Elementary School



Jenavicia Quiroga Kindergarten Vida Hernandez First Grade Adrian Garcia Second Grade



Adahlynn Alvarez Third Grade Michael Garcia Fourth Grade Logan Bunney Fifth Grade

Jefferson Elementary School



Victor Cervantes Kindergarten Tricety Fonseca First Grade Jenesis Rivera Second Grade Jayla Lopez Third Grade Tiger Miller Fourth Grade Myra Morales Fifth Grade

Koennecke Elementary School



Thalia Gallardo Kindergarten Diego Martinez First Grade Jody Esquivel Second Grade Isaac Solano Third Grade Ethan Elimon Fourth Grade Jahdiel Gutierrez Fifth Grade

McQueeney Elementary School



Ayven Navarro Kindergarten Hunter Kruegar First Grade Clara Canet Second Grade Rya Mercado Third Grade Autiana Trigo Fourth Grade Jouvanna Moreno Fifth Grade

Ball Early Childhood Center



Khloe Young



Nolan Watts


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Vogel Elementary School



Jayden Gonzalez Kindergarten
Carys Gonzales First Grade
Kaylee Robling Second Grade



Luke Price Third Grade
Taylor Sanchez Fourth Grade
Hannah Bentley Fifth Grade

Weinert Elementary School



Alison Schievelbein Kindergarten
Jazzlyn Ramos First Grade
Xzavier Vela Second Grade



Rylie Wilke Third Grade
Abraham Trujillo Fourth Grade
Nevaeh Acosta Fifth Grade

Barnes Middle School



Ashlie Aguilar Sixth Grade
Garrett Machado Sixth Grade
Kaelin Earl Seventh Grade



Jeremiah Garcia Seventh Grade
Sarah Luna Eighth Grade
Seth Bradley Eighth Grade

Briesemeister Middle School



Jessiah Wooley Sixth Grade
Juan Cruz Robles Sixth Grade
Mattisyn Townsend Seventh Grade

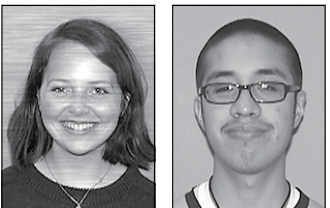


Mason Vann Seventh Grade
Hailey Chandler Eighth Grade
Oscar Alonzo Moreno Eighth Grade

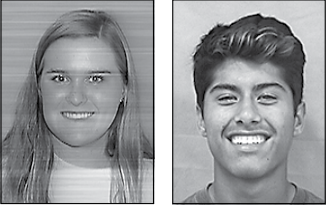
Seguin High School



Maria Valdez Morales Ninth Grade
Gerrit Twitero Ninth Grade



Lilly Blinder Tenth Grade
Isaac Martinez Tenth Grade



Merian Mueller Eleventh Grade
Brandon Gallegos Eleventh Grade



Kayla Johnson Twelfth Grade
Cristian Contreras Twelfth Grade



Mercer-Blumberg Learning Center



Presiosa "Esme" Palizada



Luis Matamoros



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RODRIGUEZ CHOIR PERFORMS AT TLU

The Rodriguez Elementary School Choir sang "I Have A Dream" as part of the Seguin MLK Committee celebration at TLU's Jackson Auditorium and during Morning Assembly for their classmates. "The time is always right to do what is right."

PRIZE PATROL DELIVERS GRANT AWARDS

A big thank you to the Seguin Education Foundation for visiting each Seguin SD campus on Dec. 1 for the annual Prize Patrol program. SEF delivered grant awards to fund innovative classroom projects to the tune of \$59,500. Thanks SEF for supporting Seguin ISD schools!



THESPIANS QUALIFY FOR NATIONALS

Congratulations to Seguin High School Thespian National Qualifiers (l-r) Amber Mawande-Spytek and Anderson Roy for Duet Musical, Joseph Gonzales, Duet Musical, Monique Jordan, Sound Design and Denver Miner, Duet Musical. These students are eligible to compete at Nationals at the University of Nebraska on June 19-24.





Matadors bring home awards from leadership conference

It's always a great day to be a Matador. It certainly was on Jan. 14 as Seguin High School students traveled to New Braunfels for the Business Professionals of America (BPA) Regional Leadership Conference. At the event 37 Matadors qualified for State competition to be held in Dallas in March. Additionally, freshmen Emilie Weber was elected as Area 3, Region 3 President and will represent Seguin in this leadership position.

We are very proud of these Seguin High School students and Diana Weber, their advisor, is excited to see them take their skills to the next level of competition. We congratulate all of our competitors who are advancing plus those who may be called upon as alternates.

Seguin BPA will be working hard to bring home more awards and national qualifiers to compete in Orlando in May. Special thanks to the community for their assistance and continued support of this program.

In addition to Weber, advisors include Lizz Pumphrey, Kyla Brookshier and Sharon Booth.

Please see a full list of awards below. Students with an asterisk have qualified for state competition.

Advanced Interview Skills: *Emilie Weber, 2nd
Computer Network Technology: *Nicholas Davis, 1st
Digital Media Production: *Lena Deharde, 1st
Extemporaneous Speech: *Jamee McDaniel, 2nd
HR Management: *Julia Montgomery, 1st
Network Administration Using Microsoft: *Elijah Bode, 1st

PC Servicing and Troubleshooting: *Heston Bugi, 1st
Administrative Support Concepts: *AJ Burns, 1st
*Cheney Stephenson, 2nd *Wyatt Smith, 3rd *Juanita Lozano, 4th Leo Costilla, 5th

Banking & Finance: *AJ Burns, 1st *Reyna Davila, 2nd Luis Carranza, 6th

Computer Programming Concepts: *AJ Burns, 1st *Alonzo Hill, 2nd Leo Costilla, 3rd Financial Math *AJ Burns, 1st *Dalton Hill, 2nd *Leo Costilla, 3rd

Graphic Design Promotion: *Grace Davila, 1st *Belle Martinez, 2nd

Information Technology Concepts: *AJ Burns, 1st *Leo Costilla, 2nd *Alonzo Hill, 3rd *Juanita Lozano, 4th Cheney Stephenson, 4th

Management/Marketing/Human Relations Concepts: *Samara Hernandez, 1st *AJ Burns, 2nd Lena Deharde, 5th Leo Costilla, 6th

Personal Financial Management: *Trinity Ramirez, 2nd Kanishak Joshi, 5th

Presentation Management Individual: *Juanita Lozano, 1st *Victoria Salazar, 2nd

Administrative Support Team: *Karen Ranft, Reyna Davila, Trinity Ramirez, Victoria Salazar, 1st

Global Marketing: *Dalton Hill, Leo Costilla, Luis Carranza, Kanishak Joshi, 1st *Danielle Xu, Ashlee Hernandez, Jeremy Cevallos, Wyatt Smith, 2nd

Presentation Management Team: *Nathanael Cordova, Jamee McDaniel, Julia Montgomery, Joshua Valdez, 1st

Video Production Team: *Briana Miranda, Maddy Coleman, Emilie Weber, Ruben Hernandez, 1st *Juanita Lozano, Samara Hernandez, Jeremy Marmolejo, 2nd

Website Design Team: *Lilly Jones, Cheney Stephenson, 2nd

Interview Skills: Karen Ranft, 4th

Medical Office Procedures: Lilly Jones, 4th


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HOUR OF CODE

Students at Seguin ISD schools participated in Computer Science Education Week and performed an Hour of Code. Several Seguin VIPs visited campuses to receive personal instruction in coding, including Trustee Cinde Thomas-Jimenez (pictured), Trustee Benito Amador, Mayor Don Kiel, City Councilwoman Fonda Mathis and Seguin Chamber of Commerce President Kendy Gravett.



WEATHER EXPERIMENTS

Ball Early Childhood Center students have been learning about weather patterns. On Jan. 19, they completed their first experiments in their new science lab that was funded by the High Quality Pre-K Funds Grant and a Seguin Education Foundation Grant.



ADOPT A HIGHWAY

The Seguin High School chapter of the National Honor Society has adopted a section of Highway 90 between 123 and Lola's Restaurant. The students performed their first cleanup on Dec. 10. As a result, enough litter to fill 10 big trash bags was removed by the students. Don't Mess with Texas!

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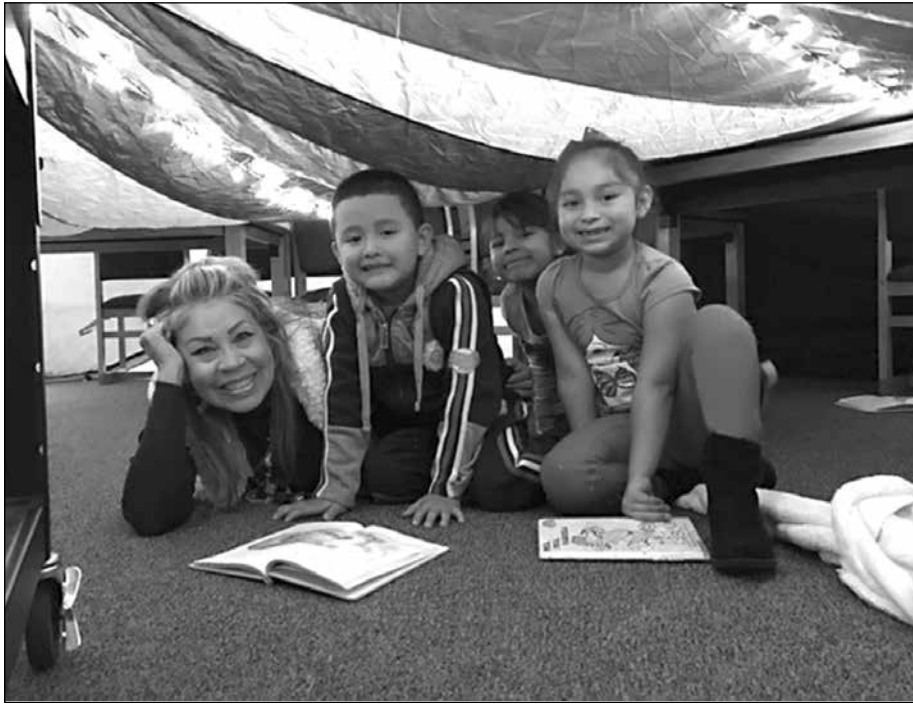
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RODRIGUEZ READERS

Rodriguez Elementary Librarian Jackie Silvius treated students who achieved their third AR Reading Goal with a relaxing time reading "under the stars." Students and staff spent 20 minutes reading a book of their choice in this relaxing and special environment. At Rodriguez, Readers Are Leaders!



CYBERPATRIOT IX STATE COMPETITION

The Seguin High School Navy JROTC Cyber Patriot Teams competed in the CyberPatriot IX State Competition. Pictured are members of the Cyber Knight JV team that competed in the Platinum Level division: Guadalupe Narvaez, Leyna Rodriguez, Devon Ramirez, Ashleigh Johnson and Leonard Carter (Seguin ISD Network Administrator, Mentor and retired Army National Guard Instructor).



ERSKINE HEALTH SCIENCE ACADEMY

We are Matador Proud of our Erskine Health Science Academy students in the Nurse Aide class. They are venturing out into area nursing homes to hone the classroom skills they are learning with Ms. McGinty.



RECORD BREAKING DONATION

The Matador Challenge Club and Student Council at Rodriguez Elementary teamed to collect 2,440 pounds of food this year for the Christian Cupboard, 344 more pounds than last year's record breaking total!



In December, six Seguin ISD students were awarded a \$50 gift card for having their artwork selected for the annual Seguin ISD Holiday Card design contest. Congratulations to our six winners and big thank you to all of our students who participated.



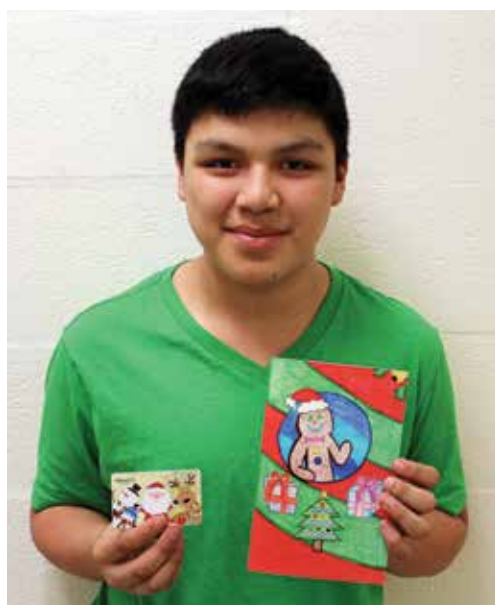
Evan Miller - 3rd grade
Rodriguez Elementary School



Clara Spencer-Dibble - 2nd grade
Patlan Elementary School



Sydney Hatley - 7th grade
Barnes Middle School



Oscar Alonso - 8th grade
Briesemeister Middle School



Zoey Sanchez - 1st grade
Jefferson Elementary School



Ivett Gonzalez - 12th grade
Seguin High School