

San Benito Consolidated Independent School District EDUCATION Connection

Making and reinforcing strong connections!

A Message from our Superintendent of Schools ...

The purpose of this message is to share a few thoughts and feelings with you about my time in San Benito.

First, I would like to thank Board President Anna Cruz and members of the Board of Trustees, including Board Vice-President Oscar Medrano, Board Secretary Michael A. Vargas, and members Joe G. González, Hector G. Leal, Angel Mendez, and Arnold Padilla, for allowing me and my family to become part of this amazing community and outstanding district. I will always be indebted to our Board of Trustees for giving me the gift of being able to lead the San Benito Consolidated Independent School District.

In addition, I want to thank the hard-working, dedicated, and committed teachers, administrators, support staff, and auxiliary staff of the SBCISD. As mentioned many times, it was evident from the moment that I arrived in San Benito that SBCISD has the best employees in the Rio Grande Valley, in Texas, and beyond! Lastly, I want to thank the families and community of San Benito.

Parents, thank you for entrusting your children to the care of the district. Students, thank you for being amazing young men and women. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know many of you, visiting your campuses, classrooms, and attending your events. You make SBCISD and San Benito proud!

Although it is with sadness that I move on, as both of my children were looking forward to graduating as Greyhounds, but, as always, my family and I must trust in the Lord and stay true to following His lead.

Please know, however, that my family and I will continue to follow the success of the SBCISD inside the classroom, on stage, in the Ag Barn, and on the field - thanks to the district's award-winning Communications Department and KSBG TV.

We will forever carry with us the adage, "Once a Greyhound, Always a Greyhound!"

Release the Hounds!



Adrian Vega, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Our Mission

The mission of the San Benito CISD is to provide a premier education for all students, through a learning and safe environment, so that its graduates are college, career, and workforce ready.

Our Vision

The vision of San Benito CISD is to be the gold standard in all areas of public education.

SAN BENITO CISD EDUCATION CONNECTION

"Education Connection" is a news-centered publication produced by the SBCISD Communications Department for both district personnel and the general community. It highlights district students, staff, schools, departments, and programs. It also serves to disseminate general education news.

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SHARE YOUR NEWS

News items for this publication should be submitted to the Communications Department via electronic mail to the following:
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Pre-registration for full-day pre-kindergarten continues in May

San Benito CISD will be holding pre-registration for its 2017/2018 full-day pre-kindergarten education program for early learners.

Pre-registration will be held at each elementary school as follows:

- Monday, May 1 - Friday, May 5
8:00-11:00 AM and 1:00-3:30 PM
- Thursday, May 4
4:30-6:30 PM

As a child's first experience in a structured setting with teachers and groups of children, pre-kindergarten provides early learners a solid foundation for gaining knowledge, following instructions, and sharing.

The district will continue working in partnership with NINOS, Inc. (Neighbors in Need of Services, Incorporated) Head Start/Early Start Program in providing a high-quality full-day pre-kindergarten education for early learners.

The full-day pre-kindergarten program is open to all children who are 4 years old by September 1, 2017.

For additional information and/or a list of the required documentation, please contact the elementary campus nearest your home or Monica Muñoz, the school district's Pre-Kindergarten Coordinator, at (956) 361-6135.



Welcome to our school district!

DR. YVETTE CANTU • Gifted & Talented/Interim Higher Education Coordinator

Dr. Yvette Cantu started her career as an elementary teacher. After earning her Masters degree in Talent Development, she transitioned to work as a Gifted & Talented Facilitator. In 2014, she was selected as the Rising Star Teacher of the Gifted for the State of Texas - an honor given by the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented for her work with gifted and talented students.

She then transitioned into leadership roles serving as a summer school principal and a Gifted and Talented Elementary Coordinator. Shortly after receiving her doctoral degree in School Improvement from Texas State University, she joined the SBCISD team as the Coordinator for Gifted and Talented Education. She also serves as the Interim Higher Education Coordinator.

Aside from her work as an educator, Dr. Cantu is an active educational researcher that has published articles and presented in conferences across the country.



Jessica Montalvo, CPA • Internal Auditor

Jessica Montalvo is the Internal Auditor for SBCISD. She is a graduate of the University of Texas Pan American with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Prior to beginning her role at SBCISD, she served as McAllen Independent School District's Internal Auditor for five years. She is a certified public accountant and was an external auditor for a local CPA firm before her school district work. She is the Treasurer for Loaves and Fishes of the RGV, Inc. and a graduate of Leadership Harlingen.



Jessica Morado • PEIMS Coordinator

Jessica Morado has been serving in the field of education for over 15 years. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership. Since being employed with the district since October 2016, Morado said it has been an enjoyable ride. Her ultimate goal is to enrich her personal and professional qualities by giving back to my community and to continue to be a key role on analyzing problems and coming up with creative solutions for effective data management.



Dr. Patricia Quesada • Director for Bilingual Education

Dr. Patricia Quesada is the new Director for Bilingual Education for the San Benito Independent School District. She has over 26 years of experience in education in public schools, charter schools, and higher education. Her background is mostly in Bilingual/ESL education and has held various roles throughout her career, including the following: elementary Bilingual teacher, Secondary ESL teacher, central office Bilingual lead teacher, and principal. She has also taught college level courses for the College of Education at the University of Texas at Brownsville.

She holds a Master in Education degree (M.Ed.) in English as a Second Language and a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction (Ed.D.) from the University of Houston.



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RE-IMAGINE 2021 San Benito Schools



Yazlin San Martin

December 24, 2008 - March 12, 2017

La Paloma community mourns loss of student

On March 12, 2017, La Paloma Elementary lost a student.

The passing of Yazlin San Martin, 8, deeply affected students and staff members alike.

Yazlin is survived by mom, Jazmin San Martin, and her sisters, Joselin San Martin (also a La Paloma Elementary student) and baby Alexa Castro.

Yazlin, a second grader in Jesus Zuniga's Academically Challenged Unit (ACU) class, is remembered as a sweet warrior who fought for her life for many years.

Despite her disabilities, Yazlin entered La Paloma Elementary and demonstrated her love and affection towards the school's students and staff, especially her own classmates and teachers.

Earlier this month, La Paloma Elementary students and staff as well as Special Education Department staff welcomed Yazlin's members to the school for the dedication of a special bird bath that will perpetually honor Yazlin's young life. A balloon that read, "You're so special," was also released in her honor.

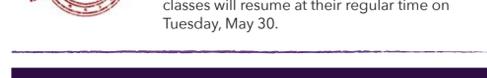
Yazlin will forever be remembered by La Paloma Elementary. Rest in peace, sweet angel!



The La Paloma Elementary Honor Choir, under the direction of Fine Arts teacher Mary Moreno, performed a special musical tribute in honor of second grade student Yazlin San Martin.

STAFF WORK DAY

Monday, May 29, 2017, is a designated staff work day. There will be no classes for students; classes will resume at their regular time on Tuesday, May 30.



Superintendent's High Five honorees

San Benito High School Class of 2017 Superintendent's High Five Award recipients include, bottom row, from left, Erika Evelyn Mendez, Ileen Jade Montemayor, Evelyn Prado Serrato, Daniela Isabel Lopez, Angela Rose Nuñez, Yvonne Salinas; middle row, Juan Carlos Sosa Hernandez, Bryan Manzanares, Pricilla Esquivel, Rene Garcia Jr., Jose Luis Rivera Jr.; and top row, Elizabeth Hernandez-Medina, Christopher Eli Guerrero, and Natali Hernandez. The honored students remained in the top five percent of their class each semester, beginning with their freshman year.



Community book fair slated for Friday, May 18

The school district's Library Department will be hosting their annual Community Book Fair on Friday, May 18, from 7:30 AM until 6:00 PM at the John F. Barron Administration Building, located at 240 N. Crockett St.

The event is designed to satisfy one of the main objectives of the district Libraries, which is the promotion of literacy in our schools and community, according to the district's Library Coordinator and San Benito High School Librarian Linda Villarreal. Campus librarians will be promoting and assisting with the fair.

The book fair will be a "Buy One, Get One Free" or "BOGO Sale." Books, posters, pencils, erasers, etc. will be available for purchase at very reasonable prices. Payments in the form of cash, checks, and/or credit cards will be accepted.

For additional information, please call (956) 361-6503.



Training proves both beneficial & critical for Transportation Department staff

School bus drivers are entrusted to transport students safely to and from school, beginning their routes early in the morning and ending them after a long day at work.

When bus drivers transport students, there's no telling what they'll encounter. For this reason, these dedicated employees spend many valuable hours training and preparing for such unexpected bumps

along the road.

On Monday, March 23, at approximately 6:40 AM, while driving route 16, school bus driver Joel Niño experienced one of those bumps when he began having issues with bus number 108, stalling about a 1 mile east of FM 2520 at 21064 Espinoza Road.

Niño quickly jumped into action, utilizing the training skills and putting them in motion. He exited the bus, setting up safety reflective triangles and began inspecting the engine to ensure other issues didn't require immediate attention.

As Niño opened hood open, he noticed a flame from the wire harness next to the gas line. Niño immediately reached for the fire extinguisher and sprayed the entire engine.

Within a few seconds, Niño evacuated all 12 students aboard the bus to a safe area.

The Transportation Department, like other departments, counts on teamwork to get things done. Such was the case on this day when fellow driver, Felix Almaraz, came to the

rescue to assist. Almaraz loaded all 12 students onto his own bus, transporting the students to start their school day on time at La Paloma Elementary.

Mechanic Jesse Garcia arrived in another bus at approximately 7:15 AM to relieve Niño and deliver a working bus so that he could continue his middle school and high school routes. The wrecker, which had been dispatched, later arrived to tow the bus back to bus barn.

Transportation Director Erica Flores explains that Niño's quick thinking and training came into play, which proved beneficial.

"Thanks to the quick reaction and safety-minded thinking of Joel Niño, all students were safely evacuated. Had he not thought to inspect the hood, the flames could have quickly spread causing serious damage or completely engulfing bus in flames," she said.

"Joel's quick thinking and passion for student safety is what minimized this potentially dangerous situation."

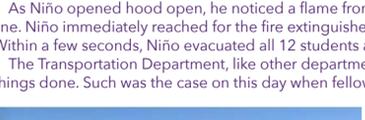
Flores also commends other staff members for stepping in to assist whenever the need arises during these situations.

Transportation Department staff members undergo routine training and have been attending bus evacuation training sessions since December in order to assist them in their day-to-day routine.



Teamwork!

SBCISD Transportation Department team members, from left, mechanic Jesse Garcia and drivers Joel Niño and Felix Almaraz were instrumental in safely transporting students to school after an incident regarding a stalled bus.



Transportation team in training ...

SBCISD bus drivers regularly train on fire extinguisher "PASS" basics - Pull the pin, Aim nozzle at base of fire, Squeeze the handle, and Sweep nozzle side to side.



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Aim! Acquire! Achieve!

San Benito CISD's Parental Engagement Department and the Office of the Executive Director of Academic Services, working with various departments and volunteers, coordinated this year's Parent Conference which was held at San Benito High School.

Parents and guests attended various informative sessions, heard from keynote speakers, and enjoyed student performances. Staff members and local agencies provided helpful information at informational booths.

The district issued Kindle tablets to qualifying participants, allowing students access to over 6,000 digital books via the MyOn Program, a summer reading initiative intended to help students avoid the "summer slide" and keeping them reading and learning all summer long!

THANK YOU to absolutely everyone that helped make this event possible!

