

LOS FRESNOS CISD



COURTESY PHOTO

Sixth-grade students show off some of the new designs on the walls of their classroom wing.

Resaca STEAM students, parents make walls colorful

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Children enjoy writing or coloring on the walls, but rarely do parents allow them to.

On Saturday, not only did parents allow their children to write on the walls, the parents joined them.

Sixth-grade students and their parents at Resaca Middle School's inaugural STEAM Academy took part in the first RMS STEAM Excursion by brightening the walls in the sixth-grade wing.

STEAM parents donated everything from paint brushes, paint, and painting supplies to transform the wing – a separate building connected to the main campus by a covered walkway – into a colorful place to make learning more enjoyable. About 40 parents joined the 65 children attending to paint at the school district's only middle school "Leader in Me" campus.

Fine arts was incorporated into the advanced learning academy, or "a school within a school."

STEAM is an extension of STEM – science, engineer-

ing, engineering of mathematics – and includes the arts, the letter A in STEAM. Saturday was the artsy day.

"The fact that it was our STEAM families who conceived the idea for the first Excursion," said Elizabeth Swantner, Resaca principal. "The fact that the parents made it happen by providing all the materials, snacks, and gave up a Saturday to do it shows their dedication to making learning a family experience. I am humbled to serve along the teachers, staff, and families."

STEAM was created with the purpose of providing an experiential learning experience for students as well as building a bridge between home and school for families. Sixth graders have the biggest transition of all grade levels from having one teacher in elementary school to several at the new campus with new classmates.

"The transition from elementary to middle school is one of challenges, and our parents must be an integral part of the transition team," Swantner said.

Resaca is the first mid-

dle school in Los Fresnos CISD to pilot the STEAM Academy. Students are required to maintain an 85 or better average on their core coursework in sixth grade as well as earn at least 25 community service hours. They must also compete in at least one UIL academic event and join a campus club to get involved in campus life. This year's first cohort includes 90 of Resaca's 300 sixth-grade students.

On this day, the sixth graders enjoyed themselves like they were first graders again.

Most of the drawings were traced using a projector which spotlighted the image on the wall. The students and their parents then brought color using paint brushes of several sizes.

The unused paint was stored at the school for future projects.

The designs included the Gator mascot, positive affirmations and the STEAM mission statement. The bathrooms are now more colorful as well.

David Rodriguez, sixth grade teacher and Resaca's

leader of the STEAM Academy, has four other excursions planned. The upcoming events include a Thanksgiving feast for the needy and homeless, a beach clean-up, a scientific excursion to Resaca de las Palmas State Park, and a student-led debate.

"The students wanted to make the school look better. The halls needed some color to them. It's a great way to keep them motivated. Kids wanted to be excited to be in the halls and to be in school. It's a great way to get them motivated."

Rodriguez said that the STEAM parents "were all on board with it. They paid for everything."

The paintings and drawings will be around for years to come, much like the outdoor mural at Los Fresnos Elementary which was done by currently now enrolled or recently graduated from Los Fresnos High School.

"A lot of them have little brothers and little sisters," Rodriguez said. "They can say 'I painted that on the walls when I was here.' It's a great legacy for them to leave behind."



COURTESY PHOTO

Shown here is the 2018 Los Cuates Middle School honor band.

Los Cuates Honor band gets national award again

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The national awards for the Los Cuates Middle School Honor Band keep rolling in.

For the second straight year, LCMS has been received distinction from The Foundation for Music Education, this time as a Commended Winner in the 2018 Mark of Excellence/National Wind Honors project.

LCMS was among the National winners in the 2017 National Wind Band Honors.

This competition recognizes and awards outstanding achievement in performance by high school and middle school bands, choirs and orches-

tras. Schools from around the nation record their groups performing music and submit their recordings to this competition.

They are classified based on their school enrollment and judged by nationally respected adjudicators. Only the top 25 percent are recognized as National Winners and the second 25 percent are named Commended Winners.

There were 279 entries in all classifications from 38 states. Los Cuates competed in Class A, which was the smallest among six divisions based on enrollment.

Only four other middle school and middle school bands south of Austin made the honor list.

UTRGV Art Exhibit 'Creeks and Rivers'

When: 6-8 p.m., Through Sept. 28

Where: Rusteberg Building, 65 Gorgas Dr., at the UTRGV-Brownsville campus

For more information: Call (956) 882-7097

The first exhibition of the Fall 2018 semester at Rusteberg Gallery at UTRGV-Brownsville will feature the work of San Antonio-based artist, Jesus Toro Martinez. The exhibition will include a variety of two-dimensional works.

Costumes of America Exhibit: Honoring the Past and Coloring the Future

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday, through the month of May

Where: 501 Ringgold St., No. 5

For more information: Call (956) 547-6890

Highlighting the season's exhibit is a Children's Coloring Book illustrated exclusively for the museum by Don Breeden. Come and experience one of a kind of collection of authentic and indigenous textiles and art.

Run With the Police

When: 7:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 29

Where: Brownsville Sports Park, 1000 Sports Park Blvd.

Cost: \$20, \$12 till Sept. 14, \$25, \$15 after Sept. 14

For more information: Call (956) 572-8271 or (956) 266-9821

The Brownsville Police Department will hold the Fourth annual Run With the Police event at the Brownsville Sports Park. Proceeds from the event will benefit United Way of Southern Cameron County

Casa Volunter Advocate Training

When: 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1-4,

Where: CASA of Cameron/Willacy counties, 1740 Boca Chica No. 300

For more information: Call (956) 546-6545

CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, trains community members to become CASA Advocates for children in the foster care system. CASA empowers ordinary citizens to serve as officers of the court and work with, and on behalf of foster children. CASA volunteers make a lifelong difference in the life of the children they support.

Positively Pink Girls Night Out-Breast Cancer Awareness Event

When: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday Oct. 4

Where: Valley Regional Medical Center, 100 E. Alton Gloor Blvd.

Cost: Free

For more information: Call (956) 350-7745

Join VRMC for its annual Positively Pink Girls Night out featuring a presentation on genetic testing by Brandi Preston, breast cancer survivor and free mini manicures, massages, refreshments, door prizes and gifts.

Church Rummage Sale

When: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, Oct. 5 and Saturday, Oct. 6

Where: 435 Boca Chica Blvd.

For more information: Call (956) 459-2255

El Buen Pastor Methodist Church is hosting a Rummage Sale. Items for sale include furniture, clothing and an assortment of misc. trinkets. All proceeds will help support church repairs.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from Las Yescas, Los Fresnos and Rancho Verde elementary schools were recognized at the Falcon football game.

Outstanding elementary students recognized at game

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Students who do great things deserve recognition.

Outstanding Los Fresnos CISD elementary and middle school students who have shown strong academic progress, leadership and community service are recognized at Los Fresnos Falcon football games

before thousands of fans.

The students are recognized between the first and second quarters. They get to shake hands with Falcon players and coaches as the public address announcer calls their names.

Students from three elementary schools were honored during the Falcons' Sept. 21 game against Edinburg

Vela. They included:

Las Yescas Elementary
 ▶ Reynaldo Galvez III, fifth grade, son of Reynaldo Galvez Jr. and Azucena Vera.

▶ Isabella Martinez, fifth grade, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rafael (Lizette) Martinez.

Los Fresnos Elementary

▶ Fourth grade student Aaron Rodriguez, son of

Mr. Rodriguez and Mrs. Quintanilla.

▶ Bianka Pardo, fourth grade, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pardo.

Rancho Verde Elementary

▶ Sophia Barajas, fifth grade, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Juan (Irma) Barajas.

▶ Diego Saenz, fifth grade, son of Ammar Halloom and Brenda Saenz.

TIPS FOR CONSERVATION AND SAVING MONEY

Do Just ONE Thing by Danny Seo

When you buy new skin care, makeup or other beauty products at stores, you'll often receive free samples or even free full-size products as part of a loyalty club. If you have a stash of unused beauty products at home, why not donate them to help women in need? The nonprofit Project Beauty Share connects donated new products to women who need them. All items must be new, and among the items needed are makeup bags, moisturizers, soap, fragrances, personal care items (like deodorants), clean makeup brushes, hair care products and nail polishes. Learn more at projectbeautyshare.org.

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