

Some people would say EPISD has some real space cadets.

Over the summer five teachers and two students stayed busy working on NASA projects.

These seven space cadets were very proud to represent the district city and state.

MacArthur Middle School teachers become aerospace scholars

Four eighth grade teachers from MacArthur Middle spent a week at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, participating in the Middle School Aerospace Scholars (MAS) program.

Gloria Cervantes, Esther Garcia, Janet Mayr and Armando Pacheco took part in the unique program for teams of Texas middle school teachers to learn how to integrate NASA instructional materials into their classroom. This team of four was one of seven chosen from middle schools throughout Texas.

"The four of us have worked as a team for some time," said Cervantes. "And to be able to go the space center as representative s for our school and the district is very exciting."



photo by Renee de Santos
MacArthur teachers get ready to go to Houston.

The team spent their week touring behind the scenes of the space center, briefings with scientists, engineers, astronauts, and instruction on utilizing numerous online NASA resources. "This is a tremendous opportunity for us to bring back what we learn and incorporate it into the class," said Garcia.

The team members will have three distance learning events, hosted by the Johnson Space center, in their classroom throughout the year. This will give the students the opportunity to interact with experts in the space program. "This will help us motivate the kids to want to learn more," said Cervantes

Canyon Hills Middle School teacher Lifts Off!

Mohammad Djebrane, a teacher at Canyon Hills, was one of 30 teachers from across the nation who attended

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NASA NOTICES EPISD

- ★ MacArthur teachers spend week in Houston
- ★ Canyon Hills teacher Lifts Off!
- ★ Austin High students visit Huntsville



Did You Know?

- . . . EPISD is welcoming about 230 secondary teachers and 128 elementary school teachers.
- . . . There are 61,783 students registered as of the first week of school.
- . . . EPISD's newest school, Tippin Elementary, opened in Northwest El Paso. The mascot is the timberwolf, and the colors are red, silver, and blue. Enrollment is at 629, with a capacity of 800. It cost \$7,052,408.50 to construct.
- . . . The EPISD show "**At a Glance**" has a new look and a new name; it is now "**EPISD School Zone**," showing every first and third Monday of the month.
- . . . The EPISD live, call-in show "**EPISD Listens**" also has a new look and a new name; it is now "**EPISD Live!**" showing every third Thursday of the month.
- . . . AdCom has a new look! Send us your good news!

Program IMPACTs fourth & fifth graders

During the summer, EPISD fourth and fifth grade students experienced a taste of what it would be like to be in the medical field. Through a program sponsored by the Gifted and Talented Education Department and Texas Tech University Health Science Center, EPISD students are now considering medicine as a future profession.

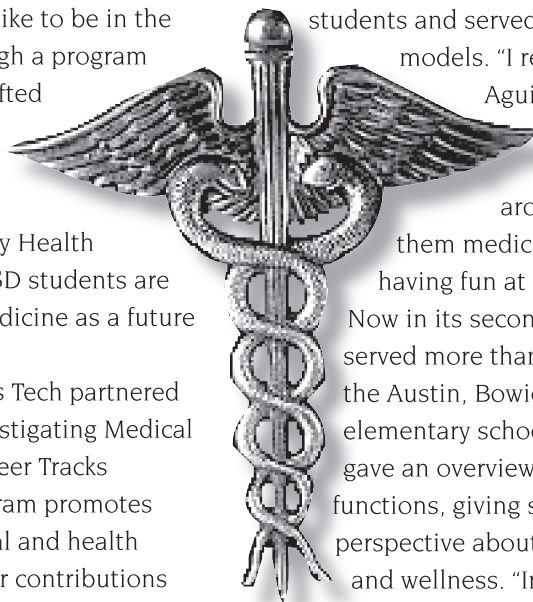
EPISD and Texas Tech partnered to establish the Investigating Medical Professions And Career Tracks (IMPACT). This program promotes awareness of medical and health professions and their contributions to society. "It expands the horizons of the kids," said Donna Serna, a cardiopulmonary teacher. "They gain tremendous understanding of the concepts and terminology that helps them with the science portion of the TAKS."

Texas Tech provided medical seminars and training for a team of EPISD teachers selected to write the IMPACT curriculum which includes nutrition, hematology, nephrology, and cardiopulmonary. In addition they paid stipends to eight interns from Silva

Health Magnet high school. The interns moved class to class with the young medical students and served as positive role models. "I really love kids," Clara Aguilera, a Silva intern said. "This gave me a chance to be around kids teaching them medical information and having fun at the same time."

Now in its second year, the program served more than 180 students from the Austin, Bowie and Jefferson feeder elementary schools. The program gave an overview of how the body functions, giving students a new perspective about the body, health and wellness. "In the nutrition class the students were so shocked to learn how much sugar soda contains, they cut down on drinking them," said Aguilera.

Other classes, such as hematology, included lessons about white and red blood cells, types of blood, and donating blood. In the cardiopulmonary class, the students learned about heart diseases, asthma, how to listen to their heartbeat with a stethoscope and the importance of physical activity for the heart. "The one thing the kids really enjoyed was the hands on experiments," Aguilera said.



In Brief

From the Printshop: Campuses and departments are reminded that ribbons for Red Ribbon Week will be ordered directly from the Printshop this year. Printshop personnel urge everyone to place orders early to ensure timely delivery. For information, call 779-4328.

EPISD Board of Trustees Meeting at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 24, in the Education Center Board Room.

DEIC Meeting at 4: 15 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 25, at the Professional

Development Center. Items to be discussed include: Superintendent's Update; Adoption of Henderson Middle School -- Uniform Dress Code; Instructional School Calendar Subcommittee -- Formation for 2005 - 2006 Calendar; District Improvement Plan Update; DEIC Code of Conduct for Effective Meetings; Open Forum; Facilitator's Report.

EPISD School Zone, noon and 7:30 p.m., Aug. 26, and 9:30 a.m., Aug. 28, on Cable Channel 14.

Words worthy of The Bard



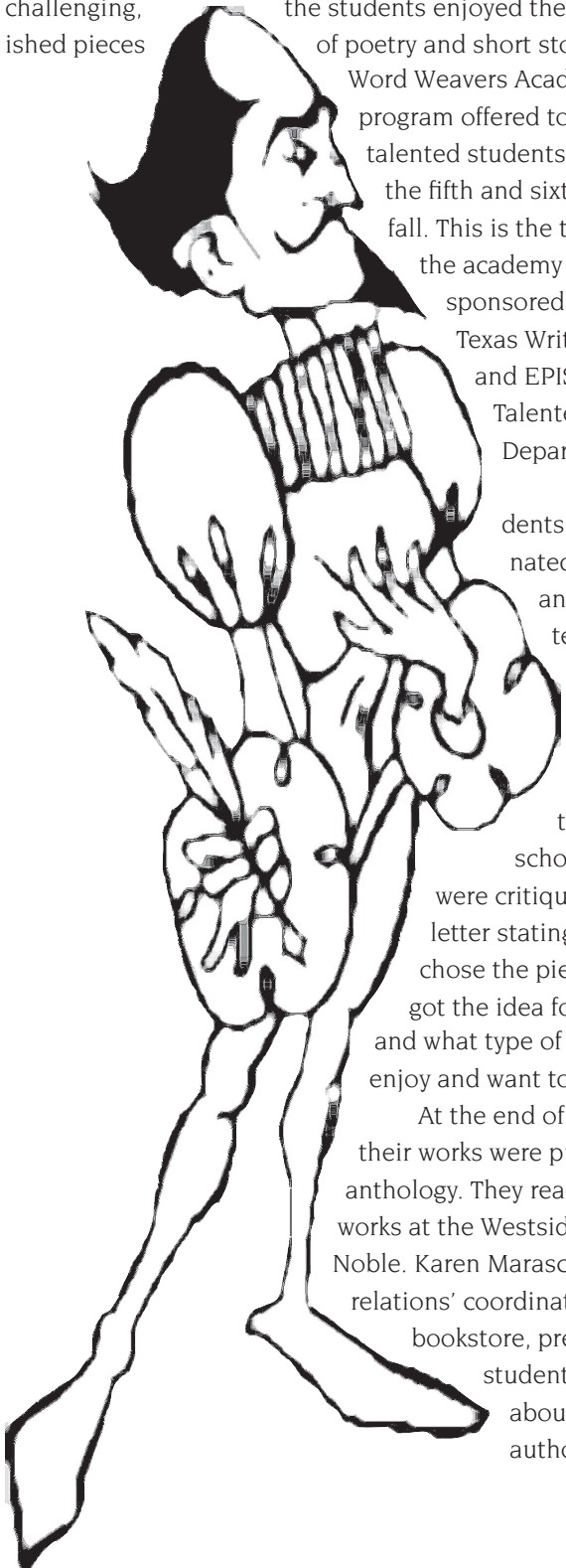
Like Shakespeare, writing comes naturally to the more than

30 students who participated in this summer's Word Weavers Academy. From journal entries to short stories, the students spent two weeks in an intense writing workshop. Although it was challenging, the students enjoyed the results - polished pieces of poetry and short stories.

Word Weavers Academy is a program offered to gifted and talented students who will enter the fifth and sixth grade in the fall. This is the third summer the academy has been co-sponsored by the West Texas Writing Project and EPISD's Gifted and Talented Education Department.

The students were nominated by their fourth and fifth grade teachers and they submitted a selected piece of work they had written during the school year. They were critiqued on a cover letter stating why they chose the piece, where they got the idea for the piece, and what type of writing they enjoy and want to explore.

At the end of the academy, their works were published in an anthology. They read from their works at the Westside Barnes & Noble. Karen Marasco, community relations' coordinator for the bookstore, presented each student with a book about being an author.



Xochitl is...

by Xochitl Burciaga

Xochitl is...

Odd when she is crazy about

Cats. Why? Who knows, but she likes to Wear...

Hats. She also likes

Ice cream. Don't get me wrong

The regular people call her

LOCA. But she is O.K. with it, she is used To it.

Because Xochitl is Xochitl and now GET USED TO IT.

An Average Day

by Mia Caldwell

In the morning when I wake up I get dressed into a gorilla suit,

Then I go and brush my teeth with my dad's old boots.

After that, I comb my hair with a brush made out of paper plates, Then I waltz into the kitchen and eat my breakfast of writing slates.

After that, I go to school to learn to draw just a circle, But I really didn't get it, so I just painted the teacher purple.

When I got home, I ate my dinner of old tree stumps. Then I go straight to bed made of bicycle pumps.

Wolves

by Autumn Cadd

Running through the Forest,
In the moonlight,
wolves are coming towards us,
stars shining bright,
Howling to each other,
so they know where they are,
depending on the night,
to hide them from afar.
Silver fur is gleaming,
on the mountainside,
their padded feet are climbing
and enjoy the bumpy ride.
Wolves are gorgeous creatures,
mysterious and shy,
I hope they do not disappear,
as time goes by.

I Am

by Joshua Allen

I am my grandpa's golden dime, sprinkling with rays of joy.
I am the necklace my mom wears, oh so proudly and honored.
I am the dog that plays and plays with so much excitement and fun.
I am the tree that my dad planted, so strong and full of energy.
I am the rosebush my grandma cares for, so full of color and happiness.
I am the house my uncle bought with so much confidence.
I am the cruise my aunt won, that filled her up with pride and joyfulness.
I love my family very much with every bit of love I've got.
I am the family in my life, so full of love and togetherness.



Personnel Vacancies

It is the district's practice to fill administrative, supervisory, and counseling positions by selecting the best qualified applicants. Qualified current employees will be given consideration when staffing these promotional positions. To be eligible for promotion, an individual must hold a master's degree, and must hold a certificate for the position desired, or be eligible to apply and receive the appropriate permit. Persons approved for temporary certificates must complete a minimum of six semester hours per year, with permanent certification completed within five years.

The superintendent may waive any or all of the requirements of any administrative regulation and recommend the employment and/or assignment of a qualified individual, whether the individual is presently employed or from outside the district, when it is in the best interest of the district.

Employees promoted to an administrative position will be subject to the compensation plan outlined in Bulletin No. 12, Placements, Promotions and Salaries. To be eligible for promotion, an applicant must meet the requirements specified in DC (Regulation) Hiring Practices and in the particular job description.

Applicants for promotional positions must submit a current resume together with the letter of application. You may fax these to the Human Resources office at 779-4280. Those applying for more than one position must submit separate letters of application. In addition, all applicants must submit appropriate and current documentation to verify certification for the position desired. If such documentation is not on file in Human Resources, applicants will not be considered.

It is very important that a current and complete transcript be on file in Human Resources to verify full certification. Those individuals who are not fully certified, but who may meet permit requirements, also need a current transcript on file. In addition, these individuals need to provide Human Resources with a current updated deficiency plan from an accredited university and copies of grade slips for recent coursework that may not be listed on the most recent transcript.

- **Cook, Stanton Elementary School, Hourly Pay Level 402, 185 days.** Send letters of interest and resumes to Alfredo Quintela, Director, Support Personnel. *Deadline to apply is noon, Thursday, Sept. 9.*
- **Head Custodian, White Elementary School, Hourly Pay Level 404, 238 days.** The position of Head Custodian requires a high school diploma or GED Certificate; the ability to read and understand instructions for cleaning, maintenance, and safety procedures. Send letters of interest and resumes to Alfredo Quintela, Director, Support Personnel. *Previous applicants need not reapply. Deadline to apply is noon, Thursday, Sept. 9.*
- **Police Dispatcher, Police Services, Hourly Pay level 404, 260 days.** The position of Police Dispatcher requires a high school diploma or GED Certificate; successful completion of the Texas Telecommunications Operator training as approved by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) and continued proficiency with the TLETS, NLETS, TCIC and NCIC; ability to read, write and speak the English language proficiently; ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions; knowledge of telecommunication systems, alarm system monitoring equipment, and closed circuit video equipment preferred. Bilingual in English and Spanish preferred. The successful applicant must have a clear and understandable voice, and the ability to communicate effectively using telephone and 2-way radio equipment, ability to operate communications and computer equipment. Experience as a police dispatcher or other emergency service dispatcher preferred. Experience as Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS) operator preferred. Send letters of interest and resumes to Alfredo Quintela, Director, Support Personnel. *Deadline to apply is noon, Thursday, Sept. 9.*
- **Bus Dispatcher, Transportation, Hourly Pay Level 404, 238 days.** Send letters of interest and resumes to Alfredo Quintela, Director, Support Personnel. *Deadline to apply is noon, Thursday, Sept. 9.*
- **Food Service Manager, Coldwell Elementary School, Hourly Pay Level 404, 188 days.** Send letters of interest and resumes to Alfredo Quintela, Director, Support Personnel. *Deadline to apply is noon, Thursday, Sept. 9.*
- **Printshop Manager, Printshop, Hourly Pay Level 407, 238 days.** Send letters of interest and resumes to Alfredo Quintela, Director, Support Personnel. *Deadline to apply is noon, Thursday, Sept. 9.*
- **Licensed Vocational Nurse, Andress High School, Pay Level 307, 184 days.** The position of Licensed Vocational Nurse requires graduation from an accredited vocational nursing education program; valid Texas license for vocational nursing; current basic life support certification; current certification in audiometer, vision, spinal and Acanthosis Nigricans screening; ability to complete a skill competency evaluation designed by Director, Health Services; knowledge of health appraisal to identify student health defects; knowledge of community medical and health care services; strong organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills; and two years experience in hospital environment. Special requirement: within 10 working days of initial assignment to work, begin Hepatitis B immunization series, or submit a statement of declination, or provide proof of previous immunization and/or blood titer levels indicating immunity. Send letters of interest and resumes to Nancy L. Evans, Director, Secondary Personnel. *Deadline to apply is noon, Thursday, Sept. 2.*



Personnel Vacancies

Continued from page 6

- **Student Activities Manager, Coronado High School, Pay Level 102, 190 days.** The position of Student Activities Manager requires a Bachelor's Degree; valid Texas teacher certificate and three years teaching experience. Send letters of interest and resumes to Nancy L. Evans, Director, Secondary Personnel. *Deadline to apply is noon, Thursday, Sept. 2.*

Clerical Positions

To bid on a position, submit a letter to Marcia Daniels, Director, Human Resources that includes: name, social security number, address, telephone number and school/department (if current employee). Also include position for which you are applying. Mail or school mail not recommended. You may fax to 779-4280. The following positions are promotional level positions or 221-day positions and will be filled by the best-qualified applicant. Current clerical employees will be given first consideration. All applicants wishing to bid on these positions, employed or not employed with the district, must have passed the clerical tests (test appointments, 779-4200) before submitting a letter of interest. All applicants are encouraged to submit a resume.

- **Department Clerk, K-12 Curriculum, Hourly Pay Level 303, 221 days.** The position of Department Clerk requires a high school diploma or GED certificate; one year of general clerical or secretarial experience; excellent organization, communication, public relations, and interpersonal skills; knowledge of computers and software applications; and satisfactory completion of the school district's qualifying clerical tests (SET 60 percent or better, verified EPISD keyboarding score). Experience with district AS400 applications preferred. *Deadline to apply is noon, Thursday, Sept. 2.*

- **Department Clerk, Math Science Partnership, Hourly Pay Level 303, 221 days.** The position of Department Clerk requires a high school diploma or GED certificate; one year of general clerical or secretarial experience; knowledge of computers and software applications; and satisfactory completion of the school district's qualifying clerical tests (SET 60 percent or better, verified EPISD keyboarding score). Experience with district AS400 applications preferred. *Deadline to apply is noon, Thursday, Sept. 2.*

- **Campus Business Agent, Burges High School, Hourly Pay Level 306, 212 days.** The position of Campus Business Agent requires a high school diploma or GED certificate; two years of general clerical or secretarial experience; a competent level of bookkeeping knowledge and experience; 10-key calculator and computer experience; and satisfactory completion of the school district's qualifying clerical tests (SET 60 percent or better, verified EPISD keyboarding score). *Deadline to apply is noon, Thursday, Sept. 2.*

NASA

Continued from page 1

the prestigious LiftOff Summer Institute at Johnson Space Center. The institute featured a series of workshops organized around an aerospace or space science theme drawn from NASA's diverse engineering and scientific research programs. This year's theme, "Journey to the Red Planet," combined strengths of collaborators to enrich teaching and learning of science, mathematics, technology and engineering.

The workshops featured hands-on activities, field trips and presentations by NASA scientists working on various missions. The teachers not only

learned about Mars, they also focused on whether life may have existed on the red planet, the geology, present robotic missions and possible human exploration of the planet in the future.

Former Austin High School students show off robotic device

Students who have the opportunity to learn from NASA professionals is an something many students only dream of. Two Austin High graduates, Jimmy Cooper and Julio Villanueva, spent a week at the NASA headquarters in Huntsville, Ala. The two seniors went to NASA to show off the Personal Satellite Assistant (PSA) that they helped develop for astronauts. The

PSA is a robotic device that assists astronauts with daily tasks along with other situations like monitoring the environment on a space vehicle and venture into situations that might be too dangerous for humans.

"I am proud to help develop potentially great technology for future generations," said Cooper.

The two seniors worked on the project the last three months of the school year, bringing class lessons to life. "The experiment concerns the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd laws of motions and how they vary in a low gravity or frictionless environment," said Cooper.

The students were excited to see their work being recognized by NASA professionals.



I want to thank everyone for all of your hard work in helping get our schools open and ready for our 2004-05 kick off.

I appreciate your professionalism and dedication to the needs of our students.

I'd also like to thank each of you for choosing EPISD, and for your commitment to make EPISD the premier district in West Texas. Your positive attitude and dedicated loyalty are the driving force.

While we have accomplished much, I would like to ask you to again assess how we can take our district to the next level academically, programmatically, and socially. I am challenging you to push yourself and to support the efforts of your campus or department to exceed what we accomplished last school year.

I continue to support a broad base of involvement by staff, students and parents in school and district activities. I ask you to get involved in providing common direction and offering common solutions to the many complex questions

and issues of the school. In turn, I will continue to promote greater opportunity for broader input and dialogue with Central Office.

With that in mind, I have established a "classified employee" Frontline that will mirror our feeder patterns Frontline to be initiated in September. I want to hear the concerns, issues, suggestions, and solutions that can be offered by our hourly employees. We will be advertising for voluntary participation and I want to make sure that everyone from bus drivers to custodians to secretaries and paraprofessionals have an opportunity for input.

Through the vision and support of the Board, as well as through your commitment and dedication, we can assure each and every student in EPISD a quality education, a bright future, and an educational experience they will cherish for years.

I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to work for you and I look forward to another great year with you.



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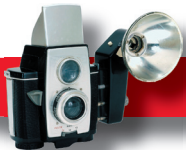
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The Administrative Communication ADCOM is published weekly during the school year by the Communications Office of the El Paso Independent School District for its employees. Comments, information and story ideas for ADCOM may be sent to the Communications Office, Stella Gutiérrez, PO Box 20100, El Paso, Texas 79998, 887-5498, or e-mailed to xsgutier@episid.org. See ADCOM and other district information online at www.episid.org.



Picture This!

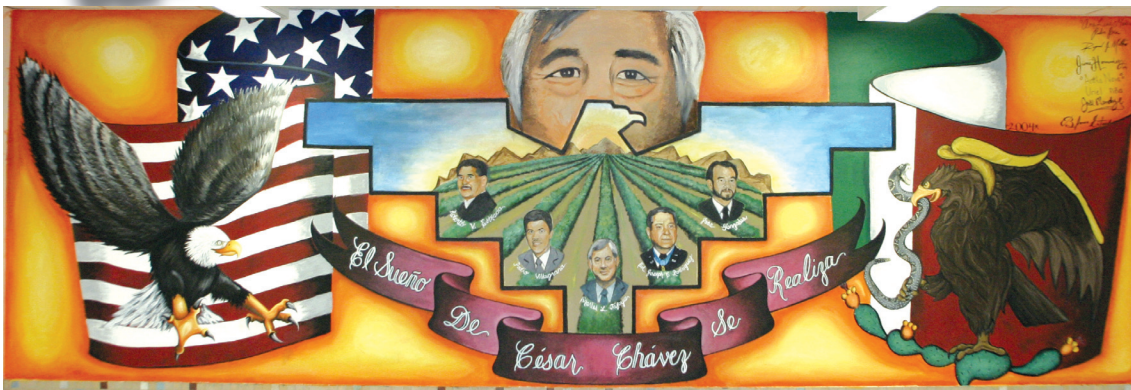


photo by Leonel Menrey Jr.

Students at Irvin High School celebrated Cinco de Mayo by unveiling the mural "El Sueño de César Chávez," (The Dream of César Chávez). The mural, not only showed the image of Mexican-American civil rights advocate César Chávez, but also honored present day heroes and role models. People honored on the mural are Roberto V. Estrada, Pedro Villagana, EPISD's very own Superintendent Charles L. Tafoya, Col. Joseph C. Rodriguez and José Gonzalez. Artists were Blanca Estrada, José Mendoza, Uriel Piña, Anita Nava, Jaime Hernandez, Raymond J., Pedro Peña, and Ana Lisa Medina.