



The Pirate Post



Pirate Perk

LVISD staff members agree that Pirate Perk is a GREAT way to start Friday mornings at La Vega Intermediate School H. P. Miles Campus. Students in Ashley Rajkowski's class are busy brewing coffee and counting donuts every Friday through the new coffee cart setup in their classroom. Pirate Perk had 32 orders on March 19th, its opening day. Customers have the choice of several coffee and beverage choices as well as a selection of donuts from Nightlife Donuts. Students dress in Pirate Perk gear and personalized masks and aprons as they bag donuts, take payments, count change and greet everyone with enthusiasm.



Shown in the bottom photo are Teacher Ashley Rajkowski with Logan Garcia, Crista Matthews, and Liam Hale at the register.

Inside this issue

LVES Academic UIL News	2
Top Graduates.....	2
LVHS Band Wins Sweepstakes.....	3
Teachers of the Year 2021.....	3
Education Foundation	
Grant Awards	4-5
Telehealth	5
Dell Scholar Recipient.....	5
LVHS CTE Students Advance to	
National Level.....	6
Varsity Track Places at State.....	6
TEPSAN of the Year	6
Junior High Students "Capture	
the Flag"	7
Primary School Partners with	
Baylor's BRILLA Program	7
Student Registration	
for 2021-2022	8

La Vega Elementary School Academic UIL News

Connect with LVISD

Up-to-date news and information about La Vega ISD can be found on the District's website and Facebook pages.

Follow us on Facebook and bookmark La Vega ISD's website:

www.lavegaisd.org

Congratulations to the second and third grade students who placed in the UIL Academic Contest this spring. These students were well prepared and very competitive against the other schools in our district. Coaches were Stacy Martinez, Christina Alejo, Maddie James, and Gary Pryor.

2nd Grade Storytelling (Ms. Martinez) - Casyn White, Brentley Lane, Jaiden Tasby, and TJ McLennan (alternate); **3rd Grade Storytelling (Ms. Alejo)** - Dalia Palacios (6th Place), and Alfredo Lerma; **3rd Grade Oral Reading (Ms. James)** - Mila Giles, Cooper Moorman, Jayci Anderson, and Kynsler Zilem (alternate); **2nd Grade Spelling (Coach Pryor)** - Prince Shepard (1st Place, shown in the photo to the right), Demond Wilson (5th Place), Broderick Ridge, and Peyton Winget (Alternate); **3rd Grade Spelling (Coach Pryor)** - Adriana Renavato (2nd Place), Ayden Tremillo, Neveah Becerra, and Landynn Dahl (Alternate)



Second Grader Prince Shepard won 1st Place in Spelling.

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." — Benjamin Franklin

La Vega High School Top Graduates

Ithzel Rubio, Valedictorian, is the daughter of Maria Escobedo and Juan Rubio. She finished her high school career with a 4.746 GPA. As a part of the Early College High School, she earned 60 college hours and her Associate's Degree from McLennan Community College (MCC) while maintaining a 4.0 GPA at the college level. She will also be graduating with Highest Honors at MCC. Throughout her high school career, Ithzel was also involved in many extracurricular activities and received many awards. Her most memorable awards are National Hispanic Scholar, QuestBridge National College Match Finalist, Award-Winning Poet in MCC's Stone Circle Literary Magazine, Regional UIL Academic Meet Qualifier, State-Qualifying Band Soloist, and Dell Foundation Scholarship recipient. She has volunteered at St. Francis Church and the Waco-McLennan County Library throughout high school, as well as participated as a mentor in the Starfish Initiative program. She plans on continuing her education in the fall at Rice University to major in Psychology.



Ithzel Rubio
Valedictorian

Larry Garcia
Salutatorian

Larry Garcia, Salutatorian, is the son of Francisco Garcia and nephew to Guadalupe Rodriguez. He has accumulated a 4.716 Grade Point Average at La Vega High School, and a 4.0 at McLennan Community College. At MCC, he earned his Associate of Arts in General Academics with a total of 62 credit hours. In addition, he was awarded highest honors for his outstanding grades. Larry played the alto saxophone in the LVHS Marching Band for three years. He participated in Mathematics and Science UIL competitions. He was inducted into the National Honors Society his junior year and is still a member to this day. His most memorable awards were his Outstanding Achievement Award in Geometry and Outstanding Achievement Award in Algebra II that he earned his freshman and sophomore year, respectively. After graduation, Larry plans to attend the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan, where he will major in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance.

La Vega High School Band Wins UIL Sweepstakes

The La Vega High School Symphonic Band and Non-Varsity Concert Band both received SUPERIOR ratings on Stage and in Sight Reading this year. They also received a Superior rating in marching band, giving the La Vega Band Program an UIL SWEEPSTAKES Award for the first time in fifteen years. In addition, the following students advanced to the State Solo and Ensemble Contest: Galilea Villegas-Chavez, Aubrey Wood, Roxxi Richards, Maynor Cruz Sosa, Ithzel Rubio, Azael Fernandez, Emily Rodriguez, Freddie Story, Tyree Silmon, Jasmin Garcia, Hugo De La Cruz, Madison Lindell, and Alyssa Lindell. The band directors are Lindsay Pfaff, David Sprinkle, and Justin Vance.



La Vega Independent School District 2021 Teachers of the Year



Erica Silva
La Vega Primary
Phil Bancale Campus



Alexandra Gomez
La Vega Elementary
School



Carri Alvarez
La Vega Intermediate
H. P. Miles Campus



Keri Coker
La Vega Junior High
George Dixon Campus



Slade Rodriguez
La Vega High School

Important Calendar Dates

Jun. 21 - PK Online Registration Opens

Jul. 5-- Independence Day Holiday

Jul. 22 - Online Registration Opens for All Grades

Jul. 27 & 29 -- Student Registration Assistance at Campuses

Aug. 3-4 -- New Teacher Orientation

Aug. 3 & 5 -- Student Registration Assistance at Campuses

Aug. 5-11 -- Teacher Workdays

Aug. 12 - First Day of School

Sep. 6 -- Labor Day Holiday

Oct. 4-5 -- Student Holidays/Teacher Workdays

Nov. 22-26 -- Thanksgiving Holidays

Dec. 17 - Early Release

Dec. 20-31 -- Christmas Holidays

Jan. 3-4 -- Student Holidays/Teacher Workdays

Jan. 17 -- MLK Holiday

Feb. 14-15 -- Student Holidays/Teacher Workdays

Mar. 7-11 - Spring Break

Mar. 14 - Student Holiday/Teacher Workday

Apr. 15 - Good Friday Holiday

May 24 - Last Day of School



La Vega Pirates Education Foundation

Did you know that La Vega ISD has a very successful Education Foundation?

The foundation gives thousands of dollars in grants to teachers every year! Funding for these grants helps to provide innovative programs and experiences for our students.

The foundation also goes above and beyond in honoring and celebrating the successes of our students, teachers, and our District..

Strong communities grow from strong schools – YOUR participation is vital to the continued success of our school district, its teachers and students.

The Executive Director for the La Vega Pirates Education Foundation is Allison Vrana.

For more information about the La Vega Pirates Education Foundation, check out their webpage on the LVISD Website.

To make a donation, you can pay online or send to:

La Vega Pirates Education Foundation
P. O. Box 154897
Waco, Texas 76715

Education Foundation Grant Awards

The La Vega Pirates Education Foundation Board Members and liaisons awarded twelve grants totaling \$42,725.83 on April 26th. Congratulations to all of the winners and we can't wait to see these grants in action.

Light Me Up! - Submitted by Sharen Underwood for La Vega Primary School Phil Bancale Campus - This grant awards \$961.30 for the purchase of a light table and manipulative center to be housed in the campus library. This light table and sensory play materials will allow students to explore light and color in a hands-on experience. Students will be able to learn and practice colors, shapes, patterns and letters. As students work, teachers will be able to assess skills in letter and shape recognition, sorting, classifying and patterning.

Full STEAM Ahead - Submitted by Sharen Underwood for La Vega Primary School Phil Bancale Campus - This grant awards \$885.50 for the purchase of a Fairy Tales STEAM Kit. The specialized kit has a collection of fairy tales with hands on literacy activities for students to enhance their language and literacy skills. This supplemental literacy instruction will allow for phonics, fluency, and comprehension and vocabulary development while students visit the library. This project will allow students the opportunity to retell stories and role play fairy tales with the use of puppets and be a wonderful supplemental tool.

Playing with a Purpose - Written and Submitted by Janet Jones for the PK3 Teachers Traci Kimberling, Courtney Stewart, and Renae Arledge for La Vega Primary School Phil Bancale Campus - This grant awards \$4,542.97 to create dramatic-play centers in each PK3 classroom. Grant funds will create themed centers such as a grocery store, veterinarian's clinic, restaurant, vegetable garden, ice cream parlor, space station, and dinosaur excavation site. As students "pretend play" with their peers in each center, they will not only develop their language and vocabulary, but will gain valuable problem solving and social skills. PK3 students will be "playing with a purpose" to acquire strategies that will set them on the path to success in reading and learning throughout the rest of their lives.

Oh, the Places You'll Go When You READ! - Submitted by Sharen Underwood for La Vega Primary School Phil Bancale Campus - This grant awards \$621.34 and is sponsored by the Kirk Family in memory of Mrs. Kirk's father, James Ronald Arbuckle and will provide a Little Free Library book exchange site permanently established at the primary campus. This Little Free Library will be filled with age appropriate books for students and families in the community to take a free book and enjoy all year long. Our closest library for our community is in East Waco and the addition of this Little Free Library will make books accessible for many students and families.

Escalera - Submitted by Christina Alejo for La Vega Elementary School - This grant awards \$3,618.10 for the third grade dual-language program. This grant will provide a supplemental phonics program designed for students who are not yet proficient readers in the Spanish language. It is hopeful that this additional program will allow students to read high-level frequency words in both English and Spanish.

Roll With It - Written by Kristy Lamar and submitted for Lindsey Lemoncelli and Kristin Hardaway for La Vega Elementary School - This grant awards \$9,239.96 for the purchase of 39 C-Pens. These scanning pens read printed text aloud, line by line. They come with a speaker and also an earphone port for independent learn-

ing. These new devices will assist a variety of students including our English as a second language students, our students with learning disabilities, our students with general reading difficulties as well as students with certain conditions of dyslexia.

Giving Reading Some CPR - Submitted by Michelle Korges and Heather Neason for La Vega Intermediate School H.P. Miles Campus - This grant awards \$4,689.98 for the purchase of 20 C-Pens. These scanning pens read printed text aloud, line by line. They come with a speaker and also an earphone port for independent learning. These new devices will assist a variety of students including our English as a second language students, our students with learning disabilities, our students with general reading difficulties as well as students with certain conditions of dyslexia.

The Great Outdoors - Submitted by Michelle Gulliford and Kari McNew for La Vega Intermediate School H.P. Miles Campus - This grant awards \$4,324.60 for the purchase of 5 coated picnic tables to be placed outside at the intermediate campus. These quality picnic tables will provide a space where students and teachers can read, draw, play, and communicate with one another outside of the classroom setting. Classes would even have the opportunity to have a lesson or spend their independent reading time outside.

Building a Healthy Pirate in Body and Mind By Moving! - Submitted by Rosalin King, Gary Johnson and Talma Orbison for La Vega Intermediate School H.P. Miles Campus - This grant awards \$3,233.62 to the Intermediate Campus to purchase equipment carts for each grade hallway so that teachers will have access to equipment to give students outside activity when they are not in PE class. These carts will contain a variety of items to be used and enjoyed by students outdoors including: Frisbees, balls, jump ropes and also provide audio visual equipment in the gym.

Magnifying Science - Submitted by LeAndra McDaniels for La Vega Junior High School George Dixon Campus - This grant awards \$3,947.24 for the purchase of science lab equipment for the 7th and 8th grade classrooms. This grant will provide compound microscopes, student digital scales, hot burners, microscope slide sets and microscope slides. The addition of this equipment will help with student engagement, self-discovery in science, and a deeper understanding of science and the state standards. The addition of this equipment will allow students more hands-on learning and the ability to do more science labs.

GDC Robotics - Submitted by for La Vega Junior High School George Dixon Campus - This grant awards \$1,930.00 to create a new robotics course for 7th and 8th grade students. This course will introduce students to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. This course will allow students to develop, build and program different robots and learn to work in teams to problem solve and strategize.

VITA Income Tax Site - Submitted by Dede Moore and Mari Keller for La Vega High School - This grant awards \$4,450.00 to the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program or VITA at La Vega High School. This is a free tax program that is run by the students who are in the Business Accounting Program. This grant will provide necessary mobile printers so that students can work at different remote sites throughout the community. It will also provide funds for advertising purposes such as billboards, mail outs and bus signs.

Telehealth

La Vega ISD is excited to announce a new partnership with Waco Family Medicine to provide school-based telehealth services. All campuses will offer this program beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. To participate, you must register your child for the program. After you have registered your child, they can have a virtual visit with one of Waco Family Medicine's clinicians from the school nurse's office if they get sick or injured during school hours. To learn more about the program and register your child, please contact the school nurse.

Congratulations

LVHS senior, Ithzel Rubio, is a 2021 nationally recognized Dell Scholars recipient of the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, Scholarship Program. She is among the top 500 2021 Dell Scholars chosen across the nation. Each Dell Scholar recipient will receive a \$20,000 scholarship as well as non-monetary support.



Students in CTE Programs Advance to National Level

Congratulations to the Career Technology Education (CTE) students who will advance to the National Conference in June after placing first in regional and state competition. This is the first time that our students have advanced to national competition. The students in the Technology Student Association (TSA) will compete in video-on-demand, and the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) student will be competing in HOSA Happenings.

Shown in the photo, from left, are Robby Wilson (TSA Advisor), Madison Lindell, Lizbeth Varela, Chloe McLellan, Hendrick Montelongo, Kenia Gallegos, Isaac Perez, Roberto Martinez (TSA Advisor), Tabitha Bass, Robyn Ammons, and Mari Keller (CTE Coordinator).



“The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you.” — B. B. King

Congratulations



Ms. Shaunte' Scott Stewart, La Vega Elementary School Principal, was named the Region 12 TEP SAN of the Year. TEP SA stands for Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association and each TEP SA region recognizes a school leader for outstanding service to the association. The recipient must be a full-time Texas public school administrator/supervisor in grades PK-8 and a TEP SA member for at least 5 years.

Varsity Track Places at State and Sets Records

Congratulations to the Varsity Boys and Girls Track Teams for their successes at the UIL Track and Field State Championships held on May 6th. The boys team swept the relay events for a Class 4A team championship, and set two 4A state records. The 4x100 team (shown below) set a state record and won the state title. The 4x200 team consisting of Jesse Majors-Sterling, Ara Rauls III, Sol'Dreweon Degrate, and Jai'Brian Bouye also set a state record. The girls 4x200 team took the silver medal home. The girls team members are Ariana Brown, Kaela Sawyers, Kiyleyah Parr, and Ny'Cierra Hinton. Kiyleyah Parr also garnered a bronze medal in the 4A girls triple jump. Other individual honors were received by Jeremiah Fisher, who won the 100, and Jai'Brian Bouye who claimed gold in the 200. The head coaches for the track teams are Chris Ward and Suzette Gill.



Top row: Stefan Jemison, Nikzavyer Rice, Jesse Majors-Sterling, Jai'Brian Bouye, Jeremiah Fisher, and Sol'Dreweon Degrate and bottom row: David Bryant, Ara Rauls, Chris Ward, Stephon Nickerson, Mekhi Rice, and Jermaine Carpenter

Junior High Students “Capture the Flag”

Seventh grade English students at La Vega Junior High School George Dixon Campus read a novel where the characters play “Capture the Flag,” which many of the students had never heard of. On the STAAR test, students often see “paired passages,” where the readers have to make connections between two texts. English Teacher Laura Munn created a STAAR-style reading activity using that novel chapter and a magazine article teaching the game. After reading each text, the students spent some time outside actually playing “Capture the Flag.” The students loved it and the teacher also noticed that data showed an increase in student scores on the more challenging connecting questions the students had to answer after getting outside and “playing.”



Primary School Partners with Baylor’s BRILLA Program

Undergraduate students at Baylor University who are studying Spanish have partnered with dual language students at La Vega Primary School Phil Bancale Campus through BRILLA (Bilingual Readiness through Interaction, Language, Literacy, and Alliances). The Baylor students come to the campus once a week to work with bilingual children to develop their bilingualism and bi-literacy together. It improves their confidence and skills in speaking Spanish outside the classroom, and it provides our students with the opportunity to connect with college students and receive some one-on-one instruction. The Baylor students receive a list of the curriculum, and are required to connect to that weekly curriculum and with the State Standards (TEKS) when working with the children. “It is beneficial for our Baylor students to explore the value of bilin-



gual education and hopefully they will support bilingual programs in their own communities,” said Tracey Jones, Lecturer in Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures at Baylor University. Shown in the photo are La Vega student Heidi Roman and Bea Herico, a Baylor biochemistry major.

Kudos & Applause

**Varsity Football
Area Champions**



**Varsity Boys Basketball
Area Champions**



**Varsity Girls Basketball
Regional Semifinalists**



**Varsity Boys Soccer
Bi-District Champions**



**LVHS Band
UIL Sweepstakes Award**



**Varsity Track
State Champions,
Individual State Medals,
and Set State Records**



**Varsity Baseball
Advanced to Bi-District**



**Career and
Technical Education
Advanced to Nationals**

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Student Registration for 2021-2022

All students, including returning and new, will register for the 2021-2022 School Year using the online Parent Portal student registration process. Pre-Kindergarten (ages 3 and 4) will register online beginning June 21. All other grades (Kindergarten through Grade 12) will register online beginning July 22.

Parents will be able to complete all steps needed to register their students by using their Parent Portal accounts. You can access Parent Portal from a computer, mobile device, tablet, etc. You will have the ability to update student and contact information as well as upload any needed documents like updated immunization records, proof of residency, copies of your driver's license, etc.

Parents will need to know their User ID and Password for their Parent Portal accounts in order to complete online student registration. If you need assistance with that information, please e-mail Parent.Portal@lavegaisd.org.

Registration assistance dates will be held at the campuses on July 27, July 29, August 3, and August 5. These dates are designated to assist parents with the online student registration process if they had difficulties completing it from home. More detailed instructions for completing your child(ren)'s 2021-2022 online registration will be placed on the District's Parent Portal website mid-July. You can access that information at the link below:

https://www.lavegaisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=119478&type=d&pREC_ID=1280227