



# The Pirate Post



## Virtual Pumpkin Lessons

Thanks to Texas Farm Bureau, Rebecca Northcutt's Dual Language students at La Vega Elementary School were able to visit virtually with Tanner Smith, a pumpkin farmer in Floydada, Texas, via Zoom. They read a pumpkin book, learned about different types of pumpkins, their seeds, and how they grow. Virtual field trips allow students to explore places that they might not have been able to visit otherwise.



### Inside this issue

Hall of Fame Class of 2021 .....	2
Important Calendar Dates .....	3
Students Honor Veterans .....	3
La Vega Pirates Education Foundation Fundraiser .....	4-5
New Fundraising Opportunity .....	5
Thank You, HEB! .....	5
Modoc Media .....	6
Superintendent Garners Awards .....	6
Sewing Club Makes Donation .....	6
Campuses Hold Food Drives .....	7
Kudos and Applause .....	7
Income Tax Preparation Program .....	8

## Hall of Fame Class of 2021

### 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](http://www.lavegaisd.org)

The La Vega ISD Hall of Fame Committee announced the Class of 2021 in September of 2021. The award recipients were honored with a reception at La Vega High School and were recognized before the home football game on October 22nd.

At the reception, the Committee also announced that the "Friend of La Vega Award" will now be known as the "Wayne Samford Friend of La Vega Award" in his memory.

The La Vega ISD Hall of Fame began this new tradition in 2019 to honor alumni, staff, and friends of the District that have achieved success in their pursuits of education, professional career, and community support.

Anyone can make nominations to the committee. Instructions for nominating are posted on the District's website under the "Alumni" tab and can be submitted online or by paper copy.

For more information, please contact La Vega ISD at 254-299-6700.

*"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. –Arthur Ashe*



**LA VEGA ISD**  
**HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2021**



**Robbie Williams**  
Dave Campbell Award  
for Excellence



**James Elliott**  
Educator's Award



**1995 Girls Track Team**  
Athletic Achievement



**Dr. Kenyatta Gilbert**  
Academic Achievement



**Wayne Samford**  
Friend of La Vega



**2000 Boys Basketball Team**  
Athletic Achievement



**Amy Gillum**  
Coach's Award



**Darel Terral**  
Academic Achievement



## Students Honor Veterans



Students honored veterans for Veterans Day this year. LVHS students participated in the City of Waco Veterans Day Parade, while students at La Vega Primary School Phil Bancale Campus held a parade of their own around the campus to honor veterans in their families, along with some LVISD employees who are veterans. The VFW Post 2148 also participated. Below is a group photo of the veterans and LVISD staff who participated in the parade.

*Shown above is PK4 student Omari Graves with his father, Devante Graves, and his grandfather, Derrick Davis, who are both veterans.*



### Important Calendar Dates

January 3 & 4 — Staff Development, No Classes

January 17— MLK Holiday

February 14 & 15—Staff Development, No Classes

March 7 to 11—Spring Break

March 14—Staff Development, No Classes

April 5-8—State Assessment Testing

April 15—Good Friday Holiday

May 3-6—State Assessment Testing

May 10-13—State Assessment Testing

May 13 — LVHS Graduation

May 24 — Early Release and 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

## La Vega Pirates Education Foundation Celebrates Third Annual Fundraiser

The Central Texas community came together on Saturday, November 6th to raise funds for the La Vega Pirates Education Foundation.

The foundation welcomed over 280 guests for a night of “nacho average” fun. This year’s Nacho Average Fiesta Fundraiser consisted of a catered dinner, fundraising games, and a silent auction.

Over \$47,000 was raised to support the foundation’s mission.

The La Vega Pirates Education Foundation was founded in 2012 with a mission to generate and distribute resources to support creative and innovative programs that will enhance the quality of educational programs provided to our students.

The foundation will use the funds raised to support teacher grants next spring.

Since 2012, the foundation has raised over \$431,000 to support programs, initiatives and grants in La Vega ISD.

The foundation is grateful for its volunteer board, district volunteers, and sponsors that made this fundraiser possible.

If you are interested in being a part of the La Vega Pirates Education Foundation or would like to learn more about the foundation, please contact Executive Director, Allison Vrana, at 254-299-6729 or [allison.vrana@lavegaisd.org](mailto:allison.vrana@lavegaisd.org).



*The foundation is thankful for all the volunteers who help to make this event successful. Shown here are Sharon and Dwayne Montigny, who helped with the Heads or Tails Game.*





## Exciting Fundraising Opportunity!

The La Vega Pirates Education Foundation is now certified by Benevity, which means we can receive donations from corporate employee-directed giving programs.

If you or someone you know works at a large company, ask if they use Benevity. If they do, we would be honored to be listed as your nonprofit of choice.

Please let us know if you have any questions and thank you for your support.

<https://causes.benevity.org/>

# NACHO AVERAGE FIESTA FUNDRAISER

La Vega Pirates Education  
FOUNDATION

PRESENTED BY



THANK YOU SPONSORS!



Virginia  
DuPuy



BWC Education  
Group, LLC



Elizabeth & Stuart Smith



Mr. George  
Dixon



## Thank You!

H-E-B representatives presented \$1,000 to the La Vega Primary School Phil Bancale Campus as winners of the Read 3 Read Initiative. The money will be used to buy books. Note from Multi-Media Specialist Sharen Underwood: "Thank you, HEB, for your continued support of our campus! I appreciate the book marks, stickers, bubble wands, kick sacks, the area rug and especially the \$1000.00 prize money!! We plan on using the monies to fund the books for our book vending machine and build up our bilingual book section in the library. Thank you again!"

## Superintendent Garners Awards

### Can't Make the Game? Watch it on Modoc Media!

Did you know that select sporting events are broadcast on the La Vega High School Modoc Media Channel?

You can find this channel by searching for "Modoc Media" on YouTube.

The broadcasts are produced by students who are in the La Vega High School Audio Visual classes.

Congratulations to Dr. Sharon M. Shields, La Vega ISD Superintendent, for receiving two very deserving awards this November.

Dr. Shields was a finalist for the Leading Waco Women's 2021 ATHENA Leadership Award. Dr. Shields also received the Citizen of the Year Award from the Omicron Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. as part of their Annual Achievement Week Program.



*"We need to help students and parents cherish and preserve the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens this community and this nation." — César Chávez*



The mission of Communities In Schools (CIS) of the Heart of Texas is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

CIS believes that every child needs and deserves, a personal, one-on-one relationship with a caring adult, a safe place to learn and grow, a healthy start and a healthy future, a marketable skill to use upon graduation, and a chance to give back to peers and community.

Contact your child's campus if you are interested in enrolling your child in this program.

## Sewing Club Makes Donation

Students in the after-school ACE program at La Vega Intermediate School H. P. Miles Campus have been busy this year. One of their projects was making hand sewn unique pumpkins which they donated to residents at The Blake at Waco, a senior assisted living center.



Shown in the photo are (back row) David Harrison, Isaac Chavez, and Antonio White; (middle row) Geovanni Gomez, Alex Rubio, and Jared Gomez, and (front row) Isaac Castro, Israel Garba, and Kash Terrill. Shown below are the residents at The Blake.

Teachers are Michelle Gulliford, Lillie Freeman, and Libby Kahn, and the ACE Site Coordinator is Cindy Washington.





## Campuses Hold Food Drives

Students and staff at La Vega Junior High School George Dixon Campus donated about 800 items, estimated to weigh 400 pounds, to Food for Families this November. The food drive was organized by the National Junior Honor Society and Melonie Normandin, Math Interventionist and NJHS Sponsor.

La Vega High School parents, staff and students filled up a bus full of donations for Food For Families this year, with over 2,500 pounds of food being donated. The JROTC, Student Council, and HOSA also volunteered with the drive.



*Shown above, from left are students Daniel Ibarra, Jemiyah Babbs, Ariana Lopez-Navarro, Carli Gravitt, Taliyah Parker-Minnitt, CeMaria Kelly, Rachel Allen, Jordan Eastland, and Noel Fajardo. Shown below are several LVHS students who volunteered their time and efforts to the food drive.*



### Kudos & Applause

LVHS Volleyball Team  
Advanced to UIL  
Class 4A Region 3  
Bi-District Playoffs



LVHS Marching Band  
Advanced to UIL  
Class 4A Area D Competition



LVHS Cross Country Athletes  
Who Advanced to Regional  
Track Meet:  
Brittney Varela-Sandoval,  
Serenity Bullard, Chloe McLellan,  
Angelina Montelongo,  
Magdalena Rusu, Mar'Cyah  
Willis, Ariana Brown, Damian  
Magdaleno, Eduardo Cordero,  
Israel Lara, Ivan Magdaleno,  
Timothy Rusu, Juan Zarate,  
and Jorge Varela-Sandoval



Chloe McLellan  
LVHS Cross Country  
Advanced to State Track Meet



LVHS VITA Income Tax  
Preparation Program  
Named New Recruit of the  
Year by the IRS



Varsity Football Team  
UIL Class 4A Division 1  
Area Champions

## La Vega ISD

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## La Vega High School Offering Free Income Tax Preparation Service

La Vega High School will be serving the Bellmead and Waco Communities again this coming year by offering a free income tax preparation service.

The program is supported by the VITA Tax program, giving students the real world opportunity to provide free tax preparation for the community. The program came to La Vega with the help of LVHS Teacher Dede Moore who has more than 14 years of experience running the program.

The students who are part of the program receive multiple certifications from the federal government that give them the credentials to work in the program. Currently more than 30 students are certified to work and more are working for that certification daily.

The school will begin services starting February 1<sup>st</sup> and will work every Tuesday and Thursday through April 15th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The tax site will follow all school holidays.

You will need to bring a photo ID, social security cards for all persons on your tax return and all pertinent tax documents.

This service is completely free to the community. To get more information on the program please call 254-717-3303.