



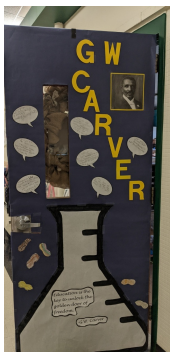
COMMUNITY CONNECTION

February 2021

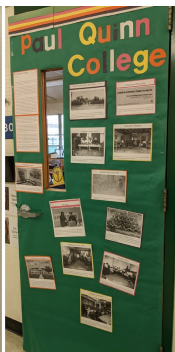
Black History Month



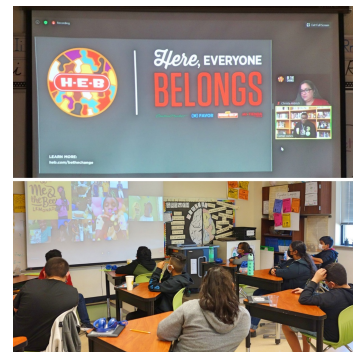
Each year for Black History Month, Waco ISD aims to provide a variety of engaging programs, activities and lessons that celebrate, recognize and value cultural heritage. Students explored the diverse histories, experiences, stories and voices of African Americans of the past and present.



Lake Air Montessori Door Decorating



Dean Highland Dance Routine



Bell's Hill and Crestview participated in H-E-B's "Be the Change" virtual story time



Waco High Black History Month Program



Dean Highland Classroom Close-Up

"The Tree of Life" ARTPrenticeship



We are incredibly proud of our students for participating in the third annual Creative Waco ARTPrenticeship Program! This program connects young creatives from our internship program with professional artists to offer real-world work experience. You can find this beautiful mural, The Tree of Life, on the TFNB Bank at 701 Elm Street. Not only does it highlight the history and culture of East Waco, but will also inspire a community for years to come.



Laying out the design

WALL DONOR: TFNB YOUR BANK FOR LIFE
LEAD DESIGNERS: VINCENT THOMAS AND CADE KEGERREIS
ARTIST MENTORS: KRISTEN THOMPSON AND TASHITA BIBLES
FILM MENTOR: ANDREAS ZALOU MIS
APPRENTICES: JONATHAN CAMPOS, VANESA GARVAJAL, LINA DENSON, RAFAEL FLORES, FATE KING, ZANDER LIM, ANGELINA MONROY, JASMIN NUNEZ, LILLIAN OLVERA, LARISSA RODRIGUEZ, NIALA SPEEDWELL, MARIA DUARTE TAVERA, TAHLIA TRAN, AND JA'NASIA WHITFIELD
PROJECT MANAGER: STEFANIE WHEAT-JOHNSON



Painting in progress

Message from the School Board President



Dear Waco ISD Community,

As a School Board, our main goal is to make sure our students, staff and community are taken care of, especially during these unprecedented times. On top of this pandemic, last week our community suffered days not having heat or water. And the idea of our staff worrying they would lose pay because they couldn't report to work was gut-wrenching.

I am thankful the Board could pass a resolution on Thursday guaranteeing all of our staff receive a paycheck for the week schools were closed because of severe winter weather. The Board is very grateful for everything our staff has done during and after the storm to ensure our schools reopened safely.

And speaking of gratitude, I am tremendously appreciative of Ascension Providence Waco and their partnership with our district. Ascension Providence staff helped organize and plan a series of COVID-19 vaccination clinics for eligible district employees. The first clinic, held Saturday, Feb. 6, at University High School, provided 384 vaccinations to district staff. A second clinic on Feb. 20 served more than 700 individuals, including staff from Waco ISD and smaller districts from the surrounding area. And yesterday, over 350 Waco ISD employees received their second dose. We are blessed to have community partners like Ascension Providence who are deeply invested in the wellbeing of our district and community.

Sincerely,

Angela Tekell

Waco ISD Board of Trustees President

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with the heroes at Ascension Providence Waco and their continuous support of our educators and community.



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Waco ISD Community,

This month's winter storm was yet another curveball thrown our way this school year. While about a quarter of our facilities experienced some kind of leak or other issue, it was our older facilities—Waco High School, Carver Middle School and Alta Vista Elementary School—that suffered the most significant damage.

All in all, we believe damages may approach up to \$500,000. However, we believe that it could have been far worse had our team not prepared in advance and responded to issues in a timely manner during the storm. I'm thankful for our facilities and maintenance team whose thoroughness significantly helped to minimize damage and enabled us to re-open school on Monday. I am also thankful to our Board of Trustees for passing a resolution on Thursday authorizing me to ensure all district employees are paid for during last week's school closures.

A major bright spot this month has been seeing how creative our campuses have participated in Black History Month activities. Each February, Waco ISD aims to provide a variety of engaging lessons that celebrate the diverse histories, experiences, stories and voices of African Americans of the past and present.

I was happy to get to attend Waco High School's Black History program called "In A Time of Darkness, Be A Light," which featured amazing music, song, dance and speech. Other campus activities included South Waco Elementary students learning songs to commemorate the achievements of African Americans. Music was also a big part of Dean Highland's program overseen by PE teacher Shamekia Carpenter. And Cedar Ridge, Bell's Hill and Crestview



elementaries provided opportunities for virtual reading rooms and virtual read alouds of books featuring black heroes and characters.

In support of Waco ISD's mission to provide an educational foundation that empowers and values all, our Board of Trustees and our district have committed to not only being non-racist but an antiracist organization. It's important to show that our work toward equity and unity can and will be enriched by continuing to celebrate Black History Month and other heritage months throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Susan Kincannon
Waco ISD Superintendent

School Board Recognition Month

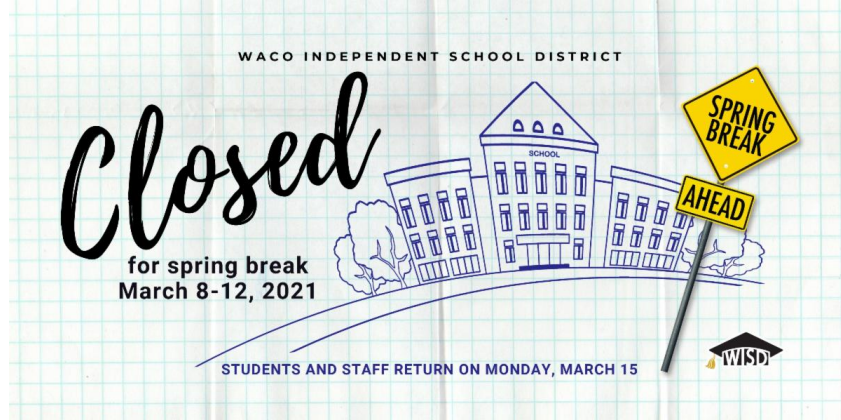


Each January, districts around Texas recognize School Board Recognition Month. Waco ISD honored each of our trustees by giving new books to every elementary library in their honor. A total of 120 new children's books, inspired by the district's mission "to provide an educational foundation that empowers and values all," were added to the libraries to not only recognize the hard work and efforts of these elected volunteers, but to also provide great literature for our students.



Community Reminders

The Ron E. Smith Academy of Business and Finance at University High School is in its 17th year of serving the community through the student-run IRS certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. This year, students are collaborating with Baylor University's Accounting Department to help prepare the returns. All taxpayers should bring photo ID including a driver's license, State ID Card or passport/Matricula Consular card, as well as social security card or ITIN, and any relevant tax documents. For hours and locations, click [HERE](#).



Spring Break is almost here. Campuses, as well as offices, will be closed during the week of March 8th. We hope our staff and students use this time to rest and relax.

100 Days Smarter, Stronger and Safer



February 23 marked the 100th day of school! It is certainly cause for celebration as this school year has been anything but normal. We could not have made it to this milestone without a supportive community that is always ready to step in to help.

