



WORD OF THE BOBCATS

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Congrats to the SSHS Law Enforcement team who are headed to State competition after taking 1st in Building Clearing. Elliot S. also placed 2nd in Physical Agility. Go Bobcats!

Annual Blue Santa Parade and Festival

By Gizelle Madrid, 12th Grade

The 22nd annual Blue Santa Parade and Festival took place on Saturday, December 10th, 2023 just off Old Pearsall Rd. in the neighborhood near Miller's Pond. Over 10 SSHS clubs and organizations participated in the event that is put on jointly by SSAISD and SWISD. The Blue Santa parade is held to give back to the community.

The groups of students and staff gathered together around 8 in the morning to decorate floats for the families that would anxiously line the parade route. Lots of schools and community groups came together to pass out candy and toys to the families who attended.



WELCOME

We would like to welcome the newest future Bobcat to the family. Our proud principal, Mrs. Almendarez, welcomed Baby Almendarez around the end of November. Congratulations and we send her all the pawstive vibes!!!





Navidad con la familia Mendez

By Alicia Carrillo Mendez, 12th Grade

In my family we celebrate December 24th. In Mexico, my whole family gets together at my grandmother's house. We have a tradition that most Mexicans usually do, which is the birth of the baby Jesus, which is to pray to him and worship him afterwards. We eat typical foods that include tamales, meat rolls accompanied with green spaghetti, and for drinks they make punch, atoles or soft drinks.

Usually we almost always exchange gifts with each other or my cousins wait for Santa and sleep in.

Things changed when we arrived in San Antonio. Now at Christmas we only celebrate with my mother and my brothers. That was last year on December 24th. I imagine that this year we will only be my family circle, we will eat the best tamales, a dessert typical with apples, or I'll make lemon pie and we'll wait for next year.



There is something for everyone!

By Danica Luna, 10th Grade

Are you interested in chess or Sci-Fi movies? If so, feel free to join Chess Club/Sci-Fi Club to watch famous Sci-Fi movies from the past such as the Star Wars movies and even E.T., which most students enjoy. In Chess Club, students are able to communicate with other members that are a part of the club to play chess and many other cool board games. These two clubs are held every Wednesday from 4:15-5:15 in the Astronomy Lab in A337. Sci-Fi club is held so students can have the chance to see these movies along with other students that also have interest in these classic entertaining films. The Chess Club teaches kids logic and how to plan things several steps ahead, which is a really important skill that can be used later on in life. Students who are a part of each of these clubs will be sure to learn useful things while having fun and being entertained too. This is also a great opportunity to be a part of a fun school club and to even make new friends!



What is STEM anyway?

By Lilyana Ramos, Editor in Chief, 12th Grade

This year we celebrated National STEM Day on November 8th. This day supports the education of students pursuing STEM subjects science, technology, engineering, and mathematics offered by institutes around the world. One of our seniors, Pedro Palacios, started the school's STEM Esports division, our newest addition to our school's activities. We had the opportunity to ask him about his future STEM career and his thoughts on this division and its impact on our school's students.

How did the idea of starting the Esports STEM Division come to you?

“Across campus and campuses across regions of underrepresented, low-income students we’ve seen less and less participation in the STEM ecosystem compared to others with a higher income level. By observing experts in the STEM field, I was inspired to share their insights and message by founding this program, which accelerates STEM opportunities for all. STEM has the potential to lift those who participate out of poverty and ultimately change their social and economic future.”

What are your plans for your STEM future?

“Fascinated by computer science, AI, Neuroscience, psychology, and neuro-physics, I'm planning on entering a graduate degree program at an university combining all of these disciplines with the intent of developing real-world capable of resolving issues most prevalent today.


What motivated you to become active in our school?

“I was new to the after school club world but as I began to participate in activities fueled by inner curiosity, I finally understood the value of participating in these after school activities. One benefit being that I was able to thrive in an environment with others sharing similar interests. My participation soon led to leadership roles where I now hold officer positions in 5 diverse clubs. Such as in spring 2023 when I founded the Esports STEM division program.”

“We’re committed with this newly founded Esports STEM Division program to not only encourage students to subsequently pursue STEM after high school, but to bring STEM to them.”

How you doin'?

By Bianca Trevino, 12th Grade



Here at South San, being in good health mentally and physically is important. According to the National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), an estimated 9.8 million adults aged 18 or older in the U.S. had a serious mental illness, including 2.5 million adults living below the poverty line. The staff at South San are here to help in any way possible. We want the students of South San and people of our community to feel safe and comfortable about speaking with people about their mental health. If you are a student and you or someone you know needs help or could just use someone to talk to, don't hesitate to take advantage of the many services provided such as speaking to one of our amazing counselors. We also have something called Care Zone where a student can meet with a professional once or twice a week and speak to them about their situation for no cost. Recently, counselors have been doing "Howdy Visits" where they give different mental health presentations about what to do and who to contact if you are in need of help. If you are a part of our community or you just prefer not speaking to someone directly we have different ways to contact someone to speak with. Please remember your brain needs breaks too. Speak to someone if you need a break.

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Text-988

Care Zone: 210-216-0698

Center for Health Care Services: 1-800-316-9241

Favorite Holiday Traditions

By Paola Huerta Ayala, 10th Grade

With the holidays right around the corner, you began to wonder if everyone has the same traditions and values that you do. Of course that is not the case since everyone lives different lives and cultures play a big part during the seasons. Some people celebrate Hanukkah, while others celebrate Kwanza and many other holidays. I interviewed some people to get an insight on their holiday traditions and what the holidays are to them.



Freshman Karina Menchaca: “The holidays are important to me because that means it is time for me to take a break from school and I get to have time for myself. I can work on the things that I love.”

Sophomore John Ramirez: “My favorite holiday tradition is when my family all gathers together at my house on Christmas Eve. We wait for the clock to hit 12 and then we open all the presents and get the party started. We stay up until sunrise and enjoy each others company.”



Junior Abigail Menchaca: “My favorite holiday tradition is just simply waking up on Christmas morning and everyone going to the tree to open gifts. My favorite winter activity is to get the Starbucks holiday drinks or any in general and try them out because you only get those for a certain amount of time.”

Senior Joselynn Martinez: “ My favorite holiday tradition is to decorate the Christmas tree the 1st of December because it symbolizes the start of an amazing month. I love making tamales with my family because it helps them get closer to each other and grow a bond. “





What is at the top of your Christmas wish list? By Newspaper Staff

“Money or cologne. I don’t know exactly what kind, I just want to smell good.” - Richard Guerrero, 10th Grade



“For Christmas, I don't really expect to get a lot of gifts. I mostly just want some new clothes that would satisfy me to my liking. Maybe a few years ago I would've wanted something like a new controller for my video game console, but now the main focus that I want for Christmas are new clothes.”

Raymien Gutierrez, 11th Grade

“Beats headphones are at the top of my Christmas wish list. I have been wanting them for a long time now, and I think having them will be an upgrade from my wired headphones.

I really do like music. It keeps my mind at peace and makes me happy in general, and having these headphones will just make my experience of listening to music even better, especially with the voice isolation feature, which will block out any noise or commotion going on around me and will only allow me to focus on my music.” Danica Luna, 10th

Grade

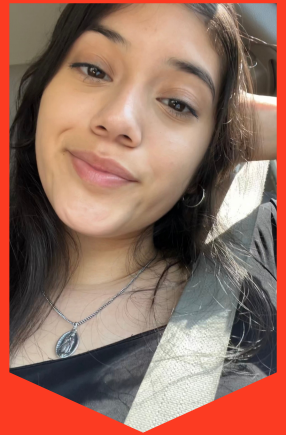
“The thing that is at the top of my christmas list this year are some gold hoops because I want some earrings that don’t turn ugly and last me a long time. Also, it's a very useful thing that will last me a long time and will always make sure my ears look cute.”

Paola Huerta-Ayala, 10th Grade



“The thing that is at the top of my Christmas list is makeup/skincare. The reason being I am slowly running out of stuff, and I also want to try new things and see how they look/work on my face. Also, I recently got a vanity mirror so I want to be able to fill it with new stuff.” Saiyan Ortiz, 11th Grade

"I haven't really made a Christmas list because I haven't thought of anything I want. I already have everything that I need, so, whenever my sister asks what I want for Christmas, I just shrug and say that I don't know. But if I were to choose one thing that I would want, I think it would be an iPad because my sister has an one and I use it all the time. Honestly, it's so convenient I would love to have an iPad. I could do my school work there, play games and store my thousands of photos there because I already ran out of storage on my phone." Bianca Trvino, 12th Grade



"I think the thing I want most for christmas is a kettle or new coffee machine. My old machine is rinky dinky and old. Its just slow and sometimes the water spills out for no reason. I need a new machine. As Christmas cheer would dictate; I guess I should only want to be near my family during the holidays I suppose." Sebastian Rojas, 12th Grade



"I would say that the present on the top of my list is a sweater. I have little things on my list, not expensive or big things. There is a pullover quarter zip sweater from Old Navy that I looooooove! It is white and gray like a wolf. I think it is soo cute. I saw it on TikTok and I put it on my list as soon as I saw it because I didn't want it to sell out. Out of all my list, I want this sweater the most."

Lilyana Ramos, 12th Grade



"Top on my Christmas list is probably James Avery charms because I want to fill my bracelet up with charms." Hannah Peoples, 12th Grade



"For Christmas I would like to get clothes."
Gizelle Madrid, 12th Grade



"I don't have many options, but one of them is a bag because I love bags. I want one to match it with my outfits. But since I am the oldest, I don't get so many gifts anymore. I could buy that gift myself, but I prefer to buy toys for my little brothers."

Alicia Mendez, 12th Grade

Top 10 Christmas songs

We asked, y'all answered!

1. "Felize Navidad" - Jose Feliciano
2. "Underneath the Tree" - Kelly Clarkson
3. "Jingle Bell Rock" - Bobby Helms
4. "Rockin' Around the Christmas tree" - Brenda Lee
5. "All I Want for Christmas" - Mariah Carey
6. "Last Christmas" - Wham!
7. "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" - Michael Buble
8. "Under the Mistletoe" - Justin Bieber
9. "Santa Tell Me" - Ariana Grande
10. "Wonderful Christmas Time" - Paul McCartney

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**BOBCATS,
DON'T FORGET THAT
CLASSES WILL RESUME ON
TUESDAY,
JANUARY 9TH, 2024!**

