



WORD OF THE BOBCATS

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Fall Fest 2023

by Saiyan Ortiz, Junior Editor, 11th Grade

Games, food, costume contests and even a haunted house! Where would you find all of this? Fall Fest!

Fall fest is a tradition that has been going on for over 15 years and counting. It always happens on the last home football game, which this year is October 27th, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. It's a festival that is meant to bring the school together, get kids out of the house, to socialize with their peers, and to have fun.

"Any club/sport is able to join, though every item that gets sold is first come first serve," said Mrs. Perez, Student Council sponsor. Student Council is student organization that sponsors it, meaning they have to get the layout and make sure that the booths that need power are on the side of the building that has outlets. There will be a DJ, so you can party till your heart's content! As for the costume contest, there will be a winner for each grade level, such as; 0-5, 5-10 and so on.

This event is open to the whole district, so make sure to bring your cousin, little brother, niece, or just anyone you can find! (Not a stranger on the side of the road guys.) It's free to enter the event, you just need to bring money (CASH ONLY) for the tickets to use at the booths. The location will be either in the parking lot between the auditorium and CTE or the grass area in front of CTE.

I don't know about y'all but this sounds like a fun time and a great way to meet new people. We hope to see you there and be sure to dress in your best costume! 🐾



Hey Bobcats! We want to know if you are planning on dressing up for Halloween this year. Let us know by filling out this quick poll and be featured in the next issue. Please scan the QR code and participate by Friday, October 27th.



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GET YOUR YEARBOOK

Jostens



The Class of 2026 presents...

KICKBALL *Tournament*

Join us for a thrilling kickball tournament and face off against your classmates and faculty members!

**NOV
4**

LOCATION
SOUTH SAN HS
BASEBALL &
SOCCER FIELDS

TIME
**8:00
A.M.**

Sign up sheets can be found with Ms. Pace in F210!

Scan for the full Rules and Guidelines and information for the tournament!



SCAN

The Class of 2026 presents...

KICKBALL *Tournament*

TEAMS
\$10 PER PLAYER,
INCLUDES COACHES

ADMISSION
\$5 FEE, COVERS BOTH
FIELDS
3YR & UNDER: FREE

Team money, sign up sheet, and waivers must be turned in together and paid in full.

Tickets will be sold at the gate starting at 7:30 A.M.

Kickball Tournament

Fundraiser - November 4th!

By Lilyana Ramos, Editor in Chief, 12th Grade

The class of 2026 is excited to announce their first ever fundraiser with their Kickball Tournament on November 4th. The sophomore class wanted to do something BIG for their first ever fundraiser to get a lot of people to come out and support it.

Do you want to participate?

Gather up 10 players of a team with a coach (senior or teacher) and go to Ms. Pace's room (F210) to sign up to play by November 1st. It'll be \$10 to play and \$5 to come and watch.

The sophomore class is very excited to host this fundraiser. "I am actually very excited for this kickball tournament. It will be a fun way to bring the community together. We are hoping to keep this as an annual event and hopefully it will go on for many years to come. I am looking forward to seeing who shows up and supports. I hope to see you there!", president, Delilah Benn said.

Ms. Pace, class sponsor, has been talking about throwing this event with her sophomores for a while now. Growing up playing kickball, Ms. Pace thinks this is the best way to get everyone involved to get some money in their account for their senior year. The money they earn from this will be going towards senior activities such as prom, senior sunrise, and senior week. Come out and play to help out the class of 2026 with their fundraising.



HOLD ON TO EVERY BEST MOMENT

BUY YOUR
YEARBOOK

HB 114

By Alicia Mendez, 12th Grade & Paola Huerta-Ayala, 10th Grade

Smoking and vaping in schools has become a huge issue these days. With all of the new marketing that is geared towards young people, it has become “normal” to see a lot of kids with vapes and pens and all that stuff without realizing how big of an issue it has really become. In the past, you would get sent to an alternative if you were caught with a device that had some type of THC in it and could get charges pressed on you. On the other hand, if you had a regular vape, the punishment wasn't as severe. But things have changed.

The new HB 114 bill, which went into effect on September 1, 2023, states that if you are caught with an e-cigarette or ANY type of vape, you will receive the same punishment as if you were being caught with a THC type pen. Essentially, if you are caught with ANY type of vape pen or e-cigarette, you will be placed in DAEP (alternative school), and, depending on the amount of THC, if present, could get legal charges pressed on you as well. Nicotine possession can lead to citations and THC possession typically comes with felony charges and immediately being taken into juvenile detention and a court date. This changes a lot for schools in Texas considering that now many more students will be punished more severely than there before. This law was put into effect with the hope of getting young people to stop vaping. Since punishments have become harsher, many schools have seen a huge increase in the number of students being punished over this.

This law has affected many schools, but how has it affected our campus? We decided to interview the associate principal, Mr. Galaviz, about this matter. When asked his opinion of these items, he stated that he thinks “it's something that is very dangerous and is something that should be left at home and not brought onto school property.” Next, we asked if there has been a significant increase in the number of students caught smoking on our campus since the house bill was implemented. Mr. Galaviz stated that the same amount of people have been caught and the number hasn't changed, but the more severe consequences of the bill now in place has helped a lot. We asked if there are plans to implement smoke detector systems, and he said, “We have had meetings with the people in charge of the district to put detectors in the bathrooms, and that way we can catch more students smoking or vaping more easily. But it is very expensive, and, at the end of the day, we want to get to the point where they would not bring those devices on their own.” We wrapped up our interview by asking what advice he would give to students who use it constantly. He stated that he “would like students who are addicts to ask for help at school if they do not want to ask for help at home, because, at the end of the day, he and the staff want them to feel comfortable at school to the point where they can ask for help and not be afraid to ask.”

Mr. Galaviz was very open and honest with us about this situation and we thank him for his help with this article. As students, we hope this law will help eventually stop the smoking and vaping at our school. If anyone you know is suffering with addiction and needs help, please let our staff know and know that they are here to help and not to harm. Like the saying goes “Don't let it cloud your future!”



Annular Solar Eclipse of 2023

By Bianca Trevino, 12th Grade

On Oct 14, 2023 There was an annular solar eclipse that was visible across North, Central, and South America. Solar eclipses happen when the moon passes between the Sun and Earth, but because the moon is smaller than the sun, the sun is not completely covered. The corona, or the “ring of fire”, is the part of the sun that wasn't covered by the moon. Even though the eclipse's path went through San Antonio allowing for many people to see, it is never safe to look directly at the eclipse without wearing specialized eye protection such as eclipse glasses. You can also use a pinhole projector to view the eclipse indirectly. Many San Antonians and Bobcats enjoyed this rare phenomenon.



Image of the clouds passing in front of the eclipse courtesy senior Jacob Rodriguez.

Image of shadows from the eclipse courtesy Mrs. Thomas, senior teacher.



Image of the “ring if fire” provided by Rebecca Thomas, daughter of Mrs. Thomas.



Testing season is upon us!

By Raymien Gutierrez, 11th Grade

The SAT, PSAT, and TSI are tests that everybody at South San has to take once a year. Whether you're going to go to college or not, you have to take these standardized tests. Seniors take the SATs mainly for college placement. However, this test can also help a student land a National Merit Scholarship and other scholarships, which means big bucks for college. The PSAT is a test that 11th and some 10th graders will take. The test can be difficult if you don't prepare, but, if you want to make it easier for yourself, make sure you follow these simple steps: 1.) study for the test, 2.) get a good night of rest, 3.) eat a good breakfast meal, and 4.) have full focus on the test. Following these steps can help make taking these tests a lot easier and less stressful. Of course, this doesn't have to only apply to the SAT, PSAT, or TSI; it can also apply to any test in general. Check out the list of upcoming testing dates to the right of this article. Best of luck, Bobcats!

Testing Schedule

SAT/PSAT/TSI School Day
October 26, 2023

ASVAB
November 1, 2023

TSI
(11th & 12th grades)
November 15, 2023

Fall STAAR EOCs
December 5-8, 2023

#EndBullying

Unity Day serves as a day to bring awareness and put a stop to a dangerous epidemic

By Sebastian Rojas, 12th Grade

Did you know that 48% of bullying occurs online, and that 37% of victims associate depression with online bullying. The most shocking thing is that students refuse to speak out only further worsens the matter at hand. No matter how silly or stupid it could sound, it is vital for you to report this sort of nonsense.

Thankfully our school has the anonymous reporting system at play, yet still little to no activity is reported. Unfortunately, many suicides have even been the result of bullying. Just recently, online harassment caused the suicide of Inquisitore3, a famous Tiktok cosplayer. No matter what, death shouldn't be the answer. Please speak out, don't allow the weight of the world to crush you. Even if it sounds silly, those being bullied online should talk to someone about it and not dwell on the negative side of the internet. The fact of the matter is that we as a community need to show everyone that they shouldn't be afraid to speak out!

Our school participated in Unity Day, a day where people show their support to #EndBullying by wearing orange.

Look at all these wonderful Bobcat students, faculty and staff who decided to show support. They want everyone to know they are here for YOU! Please know that it's okay to speak out. It's okay to cry with pride rather than crying in the dark. Paws Up, Bobcats! #EndBullying



The Science Behind Our Music Taste

By Lilyana Ramos, 12th

Why You Choose the Music You Listen To

As we grow, our music taste really helps mold our individual identities - especially to distinguish ourselves from our parents. The songs and artists we listened to when we were younger can become “home” and “comfort” music. These songs can be tied to childhood memories and nostalgia. That music will always be who you are and it is why music is so important to a lot of us.

What Your Music Taste Says About You

Pop: You are known to be Extraverted, Honest, and Conventional

Indie: You are known to be Introverted, Intellectual, and Creative

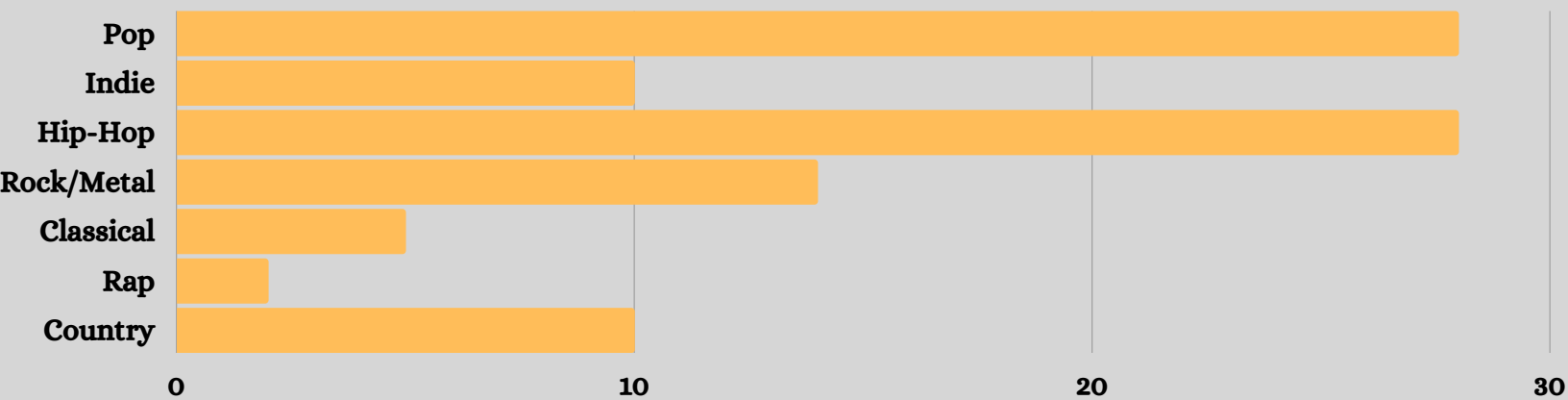
Country: You are known to be Hardworking, Conventional, and Outgoing

Rock/Metal: You are known to be Quite, Gentle, and Creative

Classical: You are known to be Introverted, Creative, and Good Self-Esteem

Rap/Hip-Hop: You are known to be Outgoing, High Self-Esteem, and Loud

We took a poll to see what kind of music students listen to, asking what artist they would rather listen to and what genre they like most. We can see most of schools music taste is hip-hop and pop.



A music poll was shared with our Bobcats and here are the results. When it comes to music genres, the row chart above shows just which ones you all listen to the most. In the pie chart to the right, Bobcats shared their favorites when it comes to artists.

Do you want to have your voice heard in our upcoming polls?

Follow us on Instagram
@word_of_the_bobcats_sshs

