



# WORD OF THE BOBCATS

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## Meet the Bobcats 2023

by Mrs. Dawn Thomas, Advisor

Another “Meet the Bobcats” is in the books! This fairly new tradition of a beginning of the school year pep rally for all athletics, clubs, and organizations has become wildly popular for all involved. Coach Bryan Reyna took charge this year getting the word out and did a fantastic job organizing the event with some help from fellow Bobcats Crystal Barr, Miguel Molina, and Reggie Serna as the emcee, of course. On Monday, August 21, 2023, the students, faculty, staff, parents and community cheered on each of Bobcat groups that participated. The weather, although still warm, cooperated with a nice breeze. It was a fantastic evening spent cheering on and pumping up our Bobcat athletes, student members, coaches and sponsors for this sure to be amazing school year.



Multiple sports teams, cheer, dance, as well as clubs and organizations participate in Meet the Bobcats 2023.

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CHRISTMAS TAIL  
by JAMES W. RODGERS



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# Lady Bobcat's 2023 Volleyball Season

By Bianca Trevino, 12th




Joslyn Torres defends the net as seniors Araceli Rangel and Angelina Munoz and sophomore Emma Reyes are on the defense at the game against Boerne on Friday, September 1, 2023.



The Lady Bobcats Volleyball team, 2023/2024 led by Coach Kayla Markgraf, Coach Valerie Segovia, Coach Amanda Vallejo, and Coach Jenny Hess.


It's volleyball season here at South San, and, coming off of last year's district playoffs, Coach Kayla Markgraf and the team are working hard to become district champs once again. With that same energy, the team has been practicing diligently and participating in tournaments during the month of August. They have been putting in the effort during these tournaments by watching how the opposing teams practice so that the Bobcats can adjust to win. Before games, the team gets together to clear their head and strategize on winning. Even though the team has expanded with its new players like Leylani Diaz and Dariana Ramirez, their consistent liveliness has helped them adjust perfectly with the team, after all that is what volleyball is all about coming together, putting in the energy, the effort and, having the same goal (to win). We also can't forget the people who are helping from behind the scenes or the sidelines such as volleyball managers Aiden Castillo, Julian Hernandez, Samuel Cazares, Jada Johnson, and Zoey Salas who help in assisting our coaches with everything they need to have our players do their absolute best. They also help to keep the crowd active with cheers and chants to help motivate our Lady Bobcats! Be sure to come out and support our Lady Bobcats any chance you get.



## 20-DAY CHALLENGE

### BATTLE OF THE GRADES

**ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY TO BE ELIGIBLE**



**Attend class each day for 20 straight days**

**WHEN?** Starts on August 30th, 2023

Attend class each day for 20 straight days and the grade with the highest percentage will get a **HOMECOMING TAILGATE**.

All students who have 95% attendance during the challenge will be entered in a drawing for football tickets for the homecoming game on September 29, 2023

Good attendance helps kids feel better about school and themselves and keeps students on track and recover lost momentum. Good attendance also improves mental health through socializing, developing friendships, building empathy and forming lasting relationships.

The Lady Bobcats in a team huddle before the start of the game against Boerne on Friday, September 1, 2023 at the Athletic Center.



# Cafeteria Hysteria!

## What's the Deal?!

Editorial

This past month of school has been not the greatest in the cafeteria as lines stretched towards the horizon, creating a chaotic and explosive environment, the cold yet moist air leaving an uneasy feeling, and barely any room to sit! Of course, that may have been a stretch, I mean there are seats outside in the boiling Texas sun! And if all that wasn't bad enough, the ice machine broke- so have fun burning!

If you tried to get lunch these past few weeks, these problems sound all too familiar. The problems that plague B lunch include the lunch room feeling overcrowded, annoyingly loud, and it felt like it took forever to get your lunch. Not to mention what else comes with being packed in a room like how Laila Gonzalez, a senior, pointed out the health safety of the cafeteria, "a room that's packed there's bound to be a few germs that spread."

I had the opportunity to interview both the cafeteria lunch ladies and Mr. Galaviz, our Assistant Principal, to get a full rundown of information about our lunch food and decisions.

Thanks to my assistant, Alicia Mendez, who helped in translating our questions, we had the privilege of interviewing the cafeteria lunch ladies, most of whom have 2 years or more experience in our cafeteria, who mainly spoke Spanish and gave their opinion on the matter. Suffice to say, they are in agreement with the issues and concerns of the students, but were able to shed some light on recent developments, such as a brand new ice machine since the old one was ancient! They attributed most of the long lines to the abundance of inexperienced freshmen. They also reminded us that it takes a while for new students to remember their id numbers and that sometimes the internet acts funky, which leads to the long lines persisting.

With time comes experience, and so the freshmen will learn and adapt to the new system. The hard working lunch ladies, who also are well respected by both students and administrators, say that they treat students like family and that the administrators fully support and communicate with them, especially our new principal and all the new staff.





Mr. Galaviz, our Associate Principal, whom I had the pleasure of meeting with, answered a few questions I had as well in regards to the lunch situation. When asked about the controversial change (the removal of C lunch), he stated that it was “strategic” and “wasn't a decision made overnight”. Mr. Galaviz reassured me that they designated Mr. Garza as a “spot checker” to make sure a sufficient number of students are getting lunch in a certain amount of time, and he says it's adequate. He also confirmed that the lunch periods are uneven but not overcrowded or unsafe by any means, saying that “We had to make all of F building (freshmen building) have B lunch so that the F building halls remain empty, making sure the teachers there have a duty free lunch.” The lunch ladies had also confirmed the difficulties with the imbalance between the lunches. He confirmed that yes, the administration knows the issues and are working to resolve them as they are “ever adapting and ever changing”. They will closely

monitor the lunches and make changes as needed. By the end of August, they even opened up a 5th line for students to get food.

There does seem to be room for change. My proposal will be simply adding C lunch back, have A lunch be an advisory period for the freshmen but let upperclassmen go eat. Then, the rest of the lunches can be mixed. But then again, Mr. Galaviz said that there were many, many people who put the current plan in motion, so who am I to input my opinion. But, as time moves on, the situation will get better. With freshmen becoming more accustomed to lunch procedures and some new changes, the lunch room should be back to working standards!

As a sign off, next time you get lunch from our cafeteria, say thank you to the lunch ladies! They love what they are doing and even work long and hard to provide for us. Show them some love!

By Sebastian Rojas, 12th with Alicia Mendez, 12th



# South San's Quick Thinking Bobcats

By Lilyana Ramos, 12th and Bianca Trevino, 12th

On Friday, August 18th, one of our South San Administrators had an accident during the school day. Some quick thinking Bobcats jumped in and helped. It was a case of being in the right place at the right time when it comes to the response of 12th grader, Andrea Flores who immediately stepped in to help. I had the opportunity to talk to her as she was the first student on scene.

"I had just come out of the elevator when I saw Mr.Green. He didn't look okay or like his usual self, so I asked if he was okay. Another student, Juan Bravo, came to help me. We got him help and got him to a secure place where he was safe. Then an admin, the principal, and an officer came."

When asked why she reacted in the way that she did, Andrea explained, "I stepped in to help because it was my instinct. I knew he wasn't okay like he said he was. I feel like I did the right thing because if we weren't there, it could've been worse. My reaction was just being me and helping someone in need."

Mr. Garza, another administrator, had a couple of words to say about these Bobcats. "Their ability to take action and give support shows what it means to be a true Bobcat. Thank you for supporting a fellow Bobcat, your timely fashion, your decision making, and your consideration is admirable and is appreciated beyond words than can be measured."

How do you feel about being called an everyday hero?

"I don't feel like a hero, I just see it as me doing anything anyone else would, helping my peers in need," Andrea stated.

On behalf of the entire Bobcat family, we want to wish Mr. Green a speedy recovery. We love you, Mr. Green!



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# BOBCAT FOOTBALL



By Gizelle Madrid, 12th

August 24th, 2023 kicked off the beginning of the season for the South San Bobcats. The Bobcats fought hard against the McCollum Cowboys, although the boys did not make it out victorious they had great support from the student section, family, and friends. Football games have so much preparation that goes on beyond throwing a ball.

After asking a few questions to Coach Barron on the preparations and goals of this season, here is what he had to say:

What are you most excited about for this football season?

“This season we hope to not only see growth on but as well as off the field. This program not only teaches these boys a thing or two about football but how to respect and how to stay honorable. Many of these players are great aspects to the community, they join many clubs around school and volunteer around the community. We are most excited to see our kids grow from last year. I am curious to see how the off season program has paid off.”

Q: What have the practices been like so far?

“As far as summer practices went, the boys would come in super early and work hard all day in the heat. I am proud of how hard

these boys have been working to better themselves.”

Q: In your opinion what makes a great player?

“A great player has great character. What are you doing when no one else is watching? This is part of being a leader and determines whether teammates follow or not. Leading by example is also huge for a great football player! You cannot expect someone to respect you if you’re not doing things right all the time.”

Q: What are some things you are looking forward to this season?

“I’m looking forward to our team having success and getting the community excited about South San football again!”

Q: What are your thoughts on the rookies and how they have adapted to the team?

“Our sophomores have been great for us! They’re quick learners and extremely competitive.”



The Bobcats make their grand entrance led by seniors Francisco Orosco, Jakob Granado, and Jimmy Estrada.





# BOBCAT FOOTBALL, CONT'D.



By Gizelle Madrid, 12th

This year is the last year for a couple of players on the team, therefore I asked Francisco Orosco a few questions on his thoughts about his senior season and on how he feels about the team now that he has gone through this program for four years .

Q: So what are your thoughts on your first last game?

“We need to clean up mistakes and execute our offense much better. We need to give defense a chance to get off the field.”

Q:How do you feel about the team this year and what's been different from last year?

“Since there are new players, our top responsibility is to get them where they have to be in order to grow as individuals as well as a team.”

Q:What are your thoughts about being on the field as a senior?

“Our seniors are the leaders on this team, they have been loyal to us and we appreciate the effort they put forth. I want my seniors to experience a playoff atmosphere this year, that’s the ultimate goal.”



Senior Francisco Orosco works to move the ball down the field despite the McCollum Cowboy’s defense.



The Bobcat Student Section was loud and BRIGHT while cheering on our Bobcats.



“Blind the Cowboys” banner tries to ignite our Bobcat’s energy.





# A Fresh, New Look



By Richard Guerrero, 11th

As you came back to campus this school year, you may have noticed something different: the fresh, new wraps on the windows, walls and stairs. It is a new addition to the school that shows how much our admin team cares about the Bobcats. We asked associate principal Mr. Galaviz about the new wraps and stair designs. He explained, "We have been planning this out for a very long time; it's something we wanted here at South San for our school to stand out and to show how much we love our school and students. We wanted to spruce things up because it was very plain." When asked about how the designs were chosen, he said, "During the time of picking the options of designs, we went through 50 different samples to pick the right one that would look best. It took a lot of time, many meetings editing and conversations throughout our school staff to get this done."

The main purpose driving this decision, according to Mr. Galaviz, was, "We want people to say 'Oh my mom, dad, grandpa and grandma went here' and to be proud that they did."

However, this wasn't just for looks, it also increased security. "If there is someone outside, they can not see inside with the window wraps, but

people inside can see out." This greatly improves the security so that we feel safe here at South San. "We also plan on doing inside decor such as more wall wraps and other types of door signs so that the hallways aren't plain," explained the associate principal. When asked how he feels about the outcome of the project, he said, "It makes me happy how it turned out; I'm very proud of what the school staff and admins did to make our school stand out."



Bobcats, new and old, were welcomed back to school this year with a fresh, new look across our campus.



# A Fresh, New Look, cont'd.

By Richard Guerrero, 11th

We asked random students from every grade level what they thought about the new wraps. A 9th grader said “I really like what they did to the front. The bobcat makes it stand out. Next, we asked a 10th grader, and he said, ”It is really cool to see the new things they are doing at this school. I play sports and I'm happy to see all the new bobcats on the front of the school. The stairs are also very nice.” The 11th grader said, “I really like how they did the windows. It's very cool how people on the outside can't see in. I feel more safe.” And the 12th grader said, “I'm really liking what they are doing to this school. I will be leaving soon, so I won't get to see the new remodeling they might add later, but I hope that the upcoming freshman and future students like what our school is doing.” We also asked former student of the class of 2017, Christopher Moreno, how he felt about the new decor. He said “It is very nice, it brings out the bobcat pride and shows our school how we support one another.”



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