



# STALLION PRIDE

## STALLIONS CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

With Christmas on its way, Slider students and faculty are beginning to feel the holiday spirit! Many teachers remember traditions and happy times spent with their family when they were young. Mrs. Gomez, the school librarian, shared her most memorable Christmas. When she was seven or eight years old, she snooped and discovered two Barbies in boxes for her and her younger sister, Gracie. They took out the Barbies very carefully and played with them everyday after school, then put them back in the box so their mom could wrap them for Christmas. When the sisters opened the boxes on Christmas morning, they acted as if they had never seen a Barbie before! They knew that their parents spent their tiny savings on their gifts so the sisters treasured the Barbies for years.

Mr. Hamilton, the orchestra instructor, shared that when he was twelve, he became interested in playing the guitar and wanted one for Christmas. Come Christmas day, he was

disappointed to find that there was no guitar. After he opened his gifts, he found a sticky note on the tree with instructions. He followed the sticky notes all over the house. In the end, he found the guitar he wanted. He said he



would remember that amazing scavenger hunt forever. Seventh grader Hannia Mendoza also shared her most memorable Christmas when she received her dream gift, a cruise to Alaska.

Many Stallions already have their lists ready for this year. The sixth graders are wishing for electronic devices and

accessories such as video games, the new iPhone 5c, and iPad Air. Sixth grader, Chase Fisher, wished for a solar panel phone charger. They also wished for pets like puppies or kittens and trips to places like Miami, Dallas, or Paris. However, sixth grader Dante Espinoza wished for something different, a baby sister!

On top of the list for many seventh and eighth grade girls are tickets to see One Direction in concert. Seventh grade boys, like Josh Vizcarra, wish for laptops, Nike Hyperdunks basketball shoes, and the new Call of Duty Ghost video game. The Disney Infinity game is also very popular. Eighth grader, Arturo Cepeda, wishes for lots of clothes, Vans shoes, and Beats Studio headphones. Of course, money is always a favorite gift.

Most of Slider's faculty just wish for a peaceful holiday with family and no papers to grade. Whatever you wish for, we hope it comes true this holiday season!

By Olga Rohrer, Jenny Cha, Leila Keys, & Ari Arias

## GINGERBREAD COMES TO LIFE

Gabriela Munoz, Ninfa Chavez, and Catherine Smith built a "sweet" replica of Big Ben for Mrs. Kern's theater arts class. They used chocolate twirlers, M&Ms, Gummy Bears and candy canes to bring the British clock to life. Jacob Rodarte, Rick Strackbien, and Jesus Ramirez, used white frosting, snowmen, Graham Crackers and Hershey bars to make a replica of the White House.

Students learned about the history of landmarks and famous castles to appreciate buildings from different time periods. They researched and built a gingerbread structure which started out as a cardboard box. Upon completion, they presented the projects with an essay explaining the location and interesting facts about the building.

Students combined creativity with engineering to design and build the Egyptian pyramids, Repunzel's castle, and the

Eiffel Tower. To decorate, students used a variety of sweet toppings including: Twizzlers, marshmallows, coconut shavings, Hershey's kisses, ice cream cones, and frosting.

Theater arts teacher, Mrs. Kern, chose the most wonderful buildings to be displayed in the library. She said, "I've seen a huge amount of 'out of the box' thinking and creativity; the projects came out great!" She based student's grades on the overall design and creativity of the project, as well as research papers and presentations.



By Arturo Cepeda, Diana Flores & Alexis Aguilar

## GT STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR REGIONALS

The Gifted and Talented students blasted off to Team Quest with seventh and eighth graders on December 9th and sixth graders on the 11th, both grades competing at the district level. The sixth,



seventh and eighth graders who had placed in the previous school competition went on to the district competition.

The second place district winners from sixth grade were: Sydney Klein, Isabelle Fabre, Isaac Apodaca, and Antonio Martinez. "It was fun but difficult," said Isaac Apodaca. Second place winners for the seventh and eighth grade competition included Nadia Kern, Cydney Schwartz, Brianna and Ariana Arias. Both groups will advance to regionals in February.

"It was more challenging, but I'm glad we placed," exclaimed Brianna Arias. Just as in the first competition, the students watched an educational video, answered trivia questions and solved challenging math equations. For the engineering test, the students had to create containers and tools to carry a potato chip and slime. For the creativity test, the student had to dress one of their group members as an astronaut with paper, cardboard, tape and other recyclable materials.

"The sixth and seventh graders are incredibly competitive, and, as a result, did very well," said GT coordinator Mrs. Apodaca.

To prepare for the contest, students also designed their own "straw rocket" out of clay, paper, and of course, a plastic straw. The students had to figure out which design would allow the rocket to travel the farthest. The rockets helped the students brush up on their creativity and engineering skills.

The students were given two tries to launch their rockets. If they didn't reach their expectations on the first try, they could tweak them by adding or

subtracting the amount of clay they used. They could also change the design of the angled wings, called fins, which help the rocket fly.

They then launched them again to see if their rockets would go further. The first launch winners were: sixth grader, Ricky Olivas and eighth graders Jacquie Zuluwoga and Alec Holguin. At the end of the second launch, seventh grader



Cydney Schwartz took the prize with the longest distance of 43 feet.

The top three students whose rockets went the furthest in the second launch received a small bucket of candy. "I was thrilled when I knew I had won the prize," said Schwartz. Overall, the event was fun and educational.

By Gerralyn Hill & Joshua Vizcarra

## GRAPHIC ARTISTS CREATE CHRISTMAS CARDS

Mrs. Mendoza's graphic arts students celebrated the holiday by creating Slider Christmas cards. The students used an Apple software called Helios Paint to compete in a Christmas card contest. The purpose of this project was to show off the student's graphic art skills. The student's projects were graded on creativity and originality in a Christmas design and three of them were chosen by Mr. Troxel to be given out to all of Slider's faculty and staff.

Seventh grader Julie Bejarano came in first, sixth grader Alondra Quintero placed second, and sixth grader Miranda Fuentes came in third. Julie Bejarano said, "Learning to do this was really fun, and I won!"



they will use the Helios program to create optical illusions.

The students were excited that their art was selected by the principal and all students enjoyed doing the project.

Seventh grade graphic arts student, Aaron Renteria stated, "I liked this project because it's a fun experience for students to learn to create art on an Apple computer."

This is just one of the many creative projects Mrs. Mendoza assigns her sixth, seventh and eighth grade Graphic Arts students. Later in the year

By Alec Amador

## MEDIA CLASSES CATCH FIRE

The film *Catching Fire* ended with Gale's ominous words, "Katniss, there is no District 12." Though everyone knew it was coming, it didn't stop the audience from crying out. The whole two and a half hour film was filled with action-packed, heartbreaking scenes.

Thirty-eight students who read the entire *Hunger Games* series of books, including *The Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, and *Mockingjay*, and passed the Accelerated Reading tests, attended the movie premier on November 22.

On opening day, the Stallions got the biggest theatre to themselves for their own private screening! When the students arrived at the movie theatre, they were given a kids meal with popcorn, candy, and a drink. The concession stands were also opened for students to buy additional snacks. "The Starbucks stand was surrounded like there was fresh meat inside, and the kids were zombies," said Josh Vizcarra. As soon as the students were seated with huge popcorns, candies, and Starbucks drinks, a few previews played, then the feature started.

"The movie was awesome, I had a great time, and it was definitely worth the wait!" said seventh grader Olga Rohrer, who could barely control her excitement. The purpose of the trip was for students to analyze how the film differed from the novel.



The movie was a sequel to *The Hunger Games*, and took the viewers through a sequence of troubles that the main character, Katniss Everdeen had to go through because of her role in the previous *Hunger Game*. She had to attend the Quarter Quell, a *Hunger Game* where the winning tributes from past have to go back to the games. She struggled to appeal to the President of the Capitol in order to live, so for Katniss, the games will never end.

"I'm really glad I got to reward my students who read the three books," said Media teacher, Mrs. Schwartz, who organized the trip. After the movie ended, students were taken to Peter Piper Pizza and given pizza, drinks, and tokens. They discussed the flaws and their favorite

scenes of the movie while scarfing down their food.

Many students agreed that *Catching Fire* was better than *The Hunger Games*, and they couldn't wait for the third movie, *Mockingjay*, which may come out in 2014. They also pointed out that the books were still better, because they gave Katniss's thoughts and more detail. After lunch, the Stallions were escorted back to Slider, just in time to attend the annual teacher student volleyball game. They laughed and cried over the amazing details of the movie, and had a fun filled movie day.

By Cydney Schwartz & Jenny Cha

## GENERATION TEXAS WEEK CELEBRATION

Mrs. Mendoza's enrichment class won a pizza party for having the best decorated door during Generation Texas week. She said, "It was a miracle, the students and I never expected to win, they didn't even know this was a competition!" The door was decorated in green, black, and red for Minot State University and Ohio State University. Theatre Arts teacher Mrs. Kern, also worked very hard on her door with streamers hanging from the ceiling to represent Lamar and Langston Universities.

The door decorating contest was part of Generation Texas Week, which is a statewide initiative that promotes college

readiness. During the week of November 18, each enrichment class was given two colleges to study. The students research included acceptance rate, location, school climates, classroom size, school majors, specialty, graduating rate, and year founded. Students also found out about the school's mascot and colors.

To finish up Generation Texas week, all participating enrichment classes put up fun facts and famous graduates on their doors. Graphic Arts teacher Mrs. Mendoza's door was voted the best.

"It was a great way to learn about universities," said counselor Mrs. Butler, who organized the event with the help of

counselor Mrs. Lara. "Generation Texas week was great because students could have a really good look at colleges," said Mr. Gonzales, seventh and eighth grade social studies teacher.



By Mark Peralta, Sabrina Fierro, Andy Carmona & Anthony Ceballos

## VOLLEYBALL ENDS IN TIE

For the first time ever, the eighth grade Lady Stallions held the teachers at only a one game win, then came back to tie the annual volleyball tournament!

"No way I'm going to let the teachers win this year. We can finally give them a taste of how it feels to be outplayed, especially because we are Division Champions!" exclaimed Carina Arias before the game.

The Stallions faced a group of teachers who were playing to win, including volleyball coaches Mr. Trujillo and Ms. Sierra. The game started off in the girls favor with Carina Arias scoring two points in a row, but the teachers quickly caught up. Eighth grade math teacher, Mr. Perez, set the ball over and

scored the first point for the teachers. Before the teachers got too far ahead, Jackie Zuluoga bumped and spiked the ball back to the teachers and scored.

The teachers won the first game 25-21 but did not realize that the students were just getting warmed up. Mr. Perez started the game with two hard hits in a row, scoring two points for the teachers. Ms. Sierra also scored the amazing serve she's been teaching her seventh grade volleyball girls. Then, the students dug in, worked hard as a team and got the win. The game ended 17-19 to tie the tournament 1-1. "It was a very exciting game, the eighth grade girls are definitely ready for high school volleyball," said Mrs. Apodaca after the game.

By Lizbeth Enriquez & Carolina Escobar

## SEVENTH GRADE GIRLS CONFERENCE CHAMPS!

### SEVENTH GRADE



The seventh grade Lady Stallions slew the Drugan Dragons 44-40 to win the Conference championship! Earlier on Saturday, December 14, the girls became Division I Champions after they outplayed the SunRidge Generals 53-21.

After a bye, the undefeated girls began the 2013 Middle School Division Basketball

Tournament and Conference Championships on their home court. They first shot down the Ensor Eagles 48-26 on December 12.

On Saturday, December 14 they took on Sun Ridge for a win, which only left the number 1 ranked Division II Champion Dragons. This game was a really exciting "nail biter," with Slider working hard to pull off the 44-40 win. "They played as a team. They really wanted it," said Coach Overton after the game.

The seventh grade boys ended their basketball season with a record of 5-3. In the Conference Championships they beat Hernando 35-54, but lost the next day, 40-48, against Sun Ridge.

### EIGHTH GRADE

In the Conference championships, the eighth grade girls dominated the Sanchez Warriors with a score of 29-20, but lost to the the Hernando Cavaliers 50-19, leaving the eighth grade girls with a record of 4-4.

The eighth grade boys trampled over the Hernando Cavaliers by the score of 49-30 in first game of the the Conference championships, but they suffered a loss from Ensor, by a final score of 54-30. "We really had a hard time getting it going and we just had an off day," said Andy Carmona.

They ended the season with a 4-4 record.

By Olga Rohrer & Jenny Cha

## SPANISH CULTURE

Spanish teacher, Mrs. Saucedo, had her advanced classes research different celebrations of Christmas in Spanish speaking countries around the world. Students selected a variety of countries such as Chile, Spain, and Argentina. "This project was designed to allow students to get a taste of cultures around the world," said Mrs. Saucedo.

Groups also cooked and brought food from the country they researched and did a power point or poster that included the recipe for the foreign food. Gissel Chavez, Olivia Amaya, Esther Barrios, Alana Nevarez, and Nazareth Delgado did their project on Cuba. They found that Christmas was dropped from the Cuban calendar of holidays in 1969 as the island strove for a record sugar harvest. However, in 1997 President Castro restored the holiday in honor of a visit by Pope John Paul II.

Some people brought empanadas filled with meat and potatoes that were native to Cuba. In Cuba people shop for pork, apple cider, beans, bananas and other fruit in preparation for their holiday festivities.

Feliz Navidad!

By Ezequiel Perez & Anthony Ceballos

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