



# STALLION PRIDE

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## Young Leaders attend Conference in D.C.

The Junior National Young Leaders Conference offers mature, high achieving middle school students an opportunity to learn about leadership. Seventh graders Mia Montes, Carlos Rocha, and Isabella Pando, from William D. Slider Middle School were chosen to participate in the JrNYLC this

JrNYLC teaches skills that make a positive impact on lives and community.

year. Through an examination of different historical time periods and characteristics of leaderships, they gained a better understanding of what it takes to become an affective leader. They attended the conference in Washington D.C. for a week in October. They saw famous and historical locations such as The White House and the Washington Monument. The students also learned life lessons, such as public speaking,

self-confidence, and understanding the key principles of everyday life. "We learned to use teamwork and how being a leader is important, we also visited the Lincoln Memorial, the White House, and the Vietnam/Korean Memorial," said Isabella Pando.

"I was nominated by Ms. Fo, and I'm glad she chose me. I learned how to become a better leader, show respect, and to have confidence. We stayed out of town for six days, and met kids from all over the U.S.," described Carlos Rocha. "I nominated Carlos because he is a great student, he does his best at everything he does, and I think he would make a great role model with his leadership skills. After all, that's what the conference was all about," stated Ms. Fo. "I learned about the Abraham Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam/Korean Museum. I also got to visit the Smithsonian. I met a lot of people, and I learned how the U.S. got to where it is now," stated Mia Montes.

These seventh graders have to be truly amazing students, only 250 outstanding middle school students from all over the U.S. were invited to take part in this extraordinary leadership conference. The students gained a better sense of the role of individuals in American Democracy, as well as the responsibilities of being a leader.

Since 1985, the council has inspired more than 200,000 young people to achieve their full leadership potential. "We were delighted that these students attended the National Junior conference in Washington D.C. Already excellent students, they developed their leadership skills, and returned with confidence in their abilities to positively influence other students. I knew they enjoyed taking part in the educational activities at the Washington museums and memorials and we were proud to have them represent Slider. Congratulations to Mia, Carlos, and Isabella," said Mr. Ferguson, principal of Slider Middle School.

BY DANTE RAMOS AND RAYMOND MENDOZA

## Principal's Corner



Slider Middle School was honored to have three of our seventh grade students selected for the Junior National Leaders Conference held in Washington.

Mia Montes, Carlos, Rocha, and Isabella Pando were fantastic representatives for our school and community. This reminds me of the outstanding level of recognition our students receive each year for a variety of reasons. We are fortunate to have that calibre of students here at Slider.

The year continues to move past us rapidly. We have just returned from a wonderful Thanksgiving break and are deep into the holiday season. Soon, we'll take our winter break and return in a new year. Let's all take a minute to reflect on our blessings and find ways to offer our time and energy to making a difference in another's life.

Let me take a moment and congratulate all of our Students of the Month honorees. These students were selected from their respective grade levels by their teachers and recognized for their dedication.

Our fall sports teams did a tremendous job representing the best of our campus. We've now entered a period where our winter sports' teams are once again working hard to give their very best performance. While I'm on that subject, remember the holiday performances for our band, orchestra, and choir. These are always very popular and entertaining.

Lastly, let's all remember Alexis Gonzalez, one of our former students who recently lost a long battle with cancer.

## Starlets march in Veteran's Day parade

The Slider Starlets joined the Benito Martinez Patriots to celebrate Veteran's Day with a festive parade.

The parade route began in the front of the Benito Martinez campus, and was led by the Kindergarten classes, wearing star spangled hats and accessories. The students all sported big smiles as they chanted and banged on homemade drums, while marching around the block. "They truly showed us that they were Patriots!" said Starlet Captain Brianna Campoya.

Students, faculty and staff were escorted by the El Paso Fire Department, Sisd police, Fort Bliss Military, and Socorro ISD Superintendent Dr. De La Torre. When the parade ended back on campus, everyone took a moment of silence in respect for the fallen troops. Library aid, Yolie Mendez, sang the "Star-Spangled Banner." At the end of the Pledge of

Allegiance, a Marine said a prayer for the troops missing in action. Principal Angela Strong gave a heartwarming speech, saluted troops who attended the parade, and dedicated a song to them.

When the song ended, a military General showed a table covered with items which represented the meaning of war and the loss of a soldier. A lightened candle stood for hope, salt and lemon were meant for the bitterness of a family losing a son or daughter, and barbed wire represented the prison of war.

After the presentation he saluted the troops, and the students completed the celebration with one of their school chants: "Patriot pride comes from inside!"

Starlet coach Ms. Sierra, who helped organize the parade, said, "It was a very touching celebration."

BY ALYSSA LOPEZ AND EVELYN SHELTON



## Stallions visit Montwood

Do you want to learn how to create and edit videos like a professional? Or maybe make a cabinet you would be proud to show off? Future Montwood Rams got a glimpse of all that and more when they took a tour of the Career and Technology courses at Montwood High School.

The school tour started with juniors and seniors showing their Ram Pride, initiating the Stallions with a crazy dance called the Wiggilo. Other students followed with a presentation showcasing all the sports available in high school. Their star players gave the eighth graders a taste of Montwood High's play-to-win attitude. After a handful of talented Ram Band members performed, the Stallions were separated into groups and assigned a tour guide. The guides took the kids around the entire school, showing them classes like Woodshop, where the famous teacher, Mr. Condra, gave them a rap all about the basic ins and outs of the class. In Audio/Video Tech, Mr. Hanley showed them the Ram TV news desk, where they broadcast announcements live every Wednesday and Friday. Another interesting class that the upcoming freshman learned about is Co-Op. In this class, juniors and seniors not only do schoolwork, but also have jobs in the real world, such as working in a department store or office. The Stallions also got to meet and question teachers and students about all the different classes.

All of the Rams seemed to enjoy their CATE classes, but said one thing to keep in mind was, "No pass, no play," so freshman must work hard to stay ahead in their school work. The Freshman Center, where tutors from higher grades help freshmen, was designed to do just that. Also available in the Freshman Center are computers for research and various supplies. Students shared differing views on leaving Slider, "I'm excited, but the transition from a smaller campus like Slider to a big one like Montwood sounds difficult," said eighth grader, Evelyn Shelton. "I have a feeling that I'm going to enjoy high school because of the freedom and independence we will be given at Montwood," predicts Kelly Kaiser. It seems like the future freshmen have big things ahead of them, but even as they become Rams, they will always keep their STALLION PRIDE!

BY KATHERINE HENRY

# Eighth Graders Learn Through Doing

During November, Slider eighth graders have been busy with a variety of projects. Mr. Peña's eighth grade science classes worked on understanding the concept of acceleration, by looking at a combination of velocity and average speed. In order for the students to get a better understanding of this complex concept, Mr. Pena came up with a unique experiment. He divided the students into groups and had them take turns pushing his pick-up truck several yards to show how a person can change a cars average speed. "I always understand better with a hands-on project," explained Alyssa Lopez.



Eighth grade Exploring Careers teacher, Mrs. Hernandez, had all of her classes work with "Black Boxes." A Black Box, Mrs. Hernandez explained, is actually a career in a container. Inside the boxes there were tools for different kinds of careers, from culinary arts to cosmetology to wood working. For culinary arts, she had students set up a table properly with the needed utensils, plates, napkins, and cups. Afterwords, the students got to make rice

crispy treats and peanut butter balls. For cosmetology, the students learned to perform a manicure, style hair and give professional facials. There were also mannequins with real hair for the students style.

In Mr. Hernandez's eighth grade social studies classes, students got into groups and made three-dimensional structures showing the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of the government. The students used their imagination and materials including paper, tape, clay, toy soldiers, and Legos to build these models.

They had to know a variety of facts about each branch, and



answer a series of questions. "This project helped me understand how the three branches of the government work, it was challenging but fun," said ZZ Diaz.

Students  
experience  
hands-on  
rigor

BY VANESSA ANTILLON, ALEX PEOPLES  
AND KARINA LARA,

## Amanda Hernandez Made it Count

The Socorro Independent School District is spreading the word to parents and the community that healthy children need to be in school every single day! Amanda Hernandez, a seventh grader at Slider Middle School, won lunch with Socorro Independent School District's Superintendent, Dr. De La Torre. Amanda got this opportunity by having a perfect attendance record for the first nine weeks of school. All students meeting this requirement took part in a drawing, and her name was selected.



The "Make it Count" attendance campaign is designed to encourage students to be in school all day, every day. Attendance boosts student achievement, and improves the quality of a student's education. The more students in school, the more funds the schools receive.

The luncheon was held at the Socorro District office. Other students from Montwood, Clark, and Ensor Middle Schools also attended, and they all wore name tags to get to know each other. To make the kids feel more comfortable, Dr. De La Torre asked the students about their families, school, and even their favorite movies. Along with lunch, the students got a tour of Dr. De La Torre's office. "I learned a great deal from this experience; it definitely encouraged me to have perfect attendance each nine weeks," said Amanda.

At Slider, each student who achieves perfect attendance during the second nine weeks will get a free dress pass. Every school is having a different reward each nine weeks to motivate students to come to school every day. High school seniors who have perfect attendance also get a chance to win a brand new car! So everyone, make sure to go to school every day, and "Make it Count!"

BY VANESSA ANTILLON AND IVANA PLAYER

## Student of the Month

Congratulations to all the William D. Slider students who had the honor of becoming Student of the Month for August, September, October and November. The award ceremony was held on November 15, in the Orchestra room, which had been decorated earlier by Student Council members.

The ceremony started at 3:30 pm when parents arrived to see their children honored. When the students were called up, they were able to shake hands with all of their teachers, and received a Stallion trophy and personalized certificate. As the students were accepting their awards, Assistant Principal Mrs. Ayala, read some interesting facts about each student, including their future goals. Principal Mr. Ferguson gave a special acknowledgment to Mia Montes, Carlos Rocha and Isabella Pando, for their JrNYLC accomplishments.



To be chosen as Student of the Month, teachers nominate students that they think embody Stallion Pride. Core leaders review the choices and select Stallions who meet the criteria of having A's and B's and demonstrate good character traits. Students also have to follow all of the Seven Habits, including being proactive. Being Student of the Month is one of the highest honors students can achieve at Slider Middle School, because, as Mr. Ferguson said, "They are showing that one day they will become good citizens."

BY VANESSA BECERRA AND GRACIE FAVELA

# Seventh and Eighth Grade Boys Basketball Undefeated

**BOYS BASKETBALL.** With only one game left before Division Tournaments, Sliders boy's basketball teams are both undefeated. Their most recent opponent, the Ensor Eagles, fell in defeat on Slider's court on November 16. The seventh grade most recently stomped Ensor with a score of 45-22, with Efren Sarmiento and Odell Graham scoring consistently and helping the Stallions fly ahead of the Eagles. Graham said, "We definitely played our best and fought for the win."



Coach Valdez stated proudly, "I'm glad that all of our hard work is paying off. We earn our wins!" The eighth graders also beat Ensor 52-43. Both teams beat the Clark Cowboys, seventh grade by a score of 46-21, and eighth grade, 53-43. Tristen Licon, scored 32 points throughout the game. "It feels good to be undefeated," said Licon. Chance Maxwell, Jacob Rojero, and Josh Ortega have also scored well this season. Against the Montwood Middle team, the seventh graders won 53-36, while

the eighth grade won 58-39. The Hernando Cavaliers also went down against the Stallion eighth grade 53-18, and the seventh grade 44-41. Both teams look forward to the final game against the Sybert Scorpions and heading to the playoffs.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL.** The seventh grade girls lost to the Ensor Eagles by only one point, 31-32 after Ensor scored a free throw with 30 seconds left in the game. The eighth graders took a harder loss, 60-16. Earlier, the seventh graders beat Clark by ten points, while the eighth graders took a loss. The eighth grade Lady Stallions had a strong come-back win against Montwood Middle. Without ever losing the lead, the girls won 31-11. With additional losses against Hernando and Sanchez the eighth grade record stands at 1-4. The seventh graders, who lost by only 7 points against Montwood went on to crush the Hernando Cavaliers 42-23 at their first home game. Mrs. Curlee, a sixth grade ELAR teacher, filled in for Coach Ramos for a time. "I had a great time coaching the girls, they are a really good team," said Mrs. Curlee.

With only one game left before Divisionals, Coach Ramos is looking forward to the next win. "The girls are playing really hard, and the next game, I know the effort will still be there," she said. Their record stands at 3-2.

BY AMBER GANDARA AND ALEX PEOPLES

## Slider students practice important safety procedure through drill

Slider Middle School had a lockdown drill on November 2nd, 2011. Lockdown drills are conducted twice a year so students will be prepared if an actual emergency were to occur, such as the Columbine High School incident in 1999, where two students came to school with guns and shot 12 students and 1 teacher, before committing suicide.

Lockdown drills are crucial for students and teachers safety. Examples of lockdown emergencies are if a gunman were to attack school, a student were to bring a weapon to school, a bomb threat, if someone were to be kidnapped or go missing, hazardous chemicals outside the building, a weather incident, or if a national disaster is declared.

During ARMI class, teachers went over lockdown procedures and students had to sign a paper stating that they understood the directions. Students are expected to behave and follow directions to ensure the best outcome for themselves. Mr. Ferguson signals a lockdown over the intercom by saying "Lockdown, Lockdown, Lockdown." Once this has been announced, students must quietly make their way to the nearest classroom, while the teacher locks the door, covers all of the windows, and turns off all lights.

It is extremely important that all cell phones be turned off, because their use could trigger a bomb by sending signals via radio waves. Usage of cell phones could also block the phone lines while Slider faculty is trying to reach the police. Horse playing is not permitted, because it could bring the attention of the threat to your classroom. You must stay seated and quiet during the time period, no matter how long, until the campus security guard or administration comes to unlock the doors and insures that you're safe.

Seventh grader Diego Gutierrez commented, "I forgot all about it, so it freaked me out a little, but I think my class performed well." Mr. Ballard proudly stated, "It went well! Everyone responded accordingly, even with it being pre-announced." After an excellent practice, which lasted just under 40 minutes, Slider should feel confident about their emergency reaction skills!

...signals the  
lockdown  
over the  
intercom...

BY AUDREE ZURICK AND SARVENAZ KARBASI

### Congratulations

to Mrs. Caley Morales, on her new baby girl Ashlynn Jo, born on October 21. Welcome future Stallion!



### STALLION PRIDE

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