

November, 2009



# THE STALLION PRIDE



Border  
Patrol and  
Boxers at  
Career Day

## CAREER DAY SHOWS STUDENTS' DIFFERENT CHOICES

**Stallions get a chance to see several different career options**

By Paige Pelletier

Although still in middle school, many Stallions have already begun to consider what career they might enjoy after college. To help guide them in the right direction, Slider hosted its annual Career Day on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Throughout the morning, presenters from an array of fields streamed in and out of classrooms. There were representatives of careers ranging from firemen to funeral directors. Several educational opportunities were also introduced.

Mr. Swanson and Mr. Casao from Montwood High School came and explained the Synergy program and The Advanced Studies Institute. Mr. Anaya discussed Job Corps and Ms. Lopez enlightened students about El Paso Community College. Ms. Molina from Girl Scouts and Ms. Saenz of the Boys and Girls Cubs of America talked about their programs and careers. Students received information on what it might be like to work as an attorney, sociologist, or mental health provider. Slider's NJHS helped out by keeping to a tight schedule and escorting guest speakers from room to room.

Classes found most presenters very interesting and many inquisitive students asked a variety of intelligent questions. "It

was interesting to hear about the Air Force Pilot's career because I have been considering becoming a pilot. Senior Airman Martinez' presentation gave me a better understanding of the profession," noted eighth grader Adrian Welsh.

Stallions watched in awe as a member of the U.S. Border Patrol brought his canine friend, Xenia, to display what he does for a living. Agent Jesus Arredondo and his dog not only demonstrated a drug search, they also performed some amazing tricks for the class.

Another popular presentation was that of professional boxer David Rodriguez who was born in El Paso but now fights in matches all over the world. Classes assembled in the gym as he discussed topics such as his grueling training schedule, the importance of nutrition to athletes, and the many places he has traveled.

Career Day ended with a presentation of certificates to all those professionals kind enough to attend. Taking time out of their busy schedules to help educate the Stallions was greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing them next year.

## NEW SAT EXPERIENCE

By Jazmine Thornton and Adrian Welsh & Chris Schrader

While most students were still snuggled in their beds, sixty industrious Stallions chose to wake up early to take a very important test. The Scholastic Aptitude Test, better known as the SAT, is a test usually taken by high school juniors and seniors as a college entrance exam. It is composed of ten sections including math, critical reading, and grammar.

The first portion of the test is an essay section. Students are given a sheet of paper and twenty-five minutes to complete an essay on a topic such as: "Is success destructive?" In the math section students are given high school level math problems, and are allowed to use a calculator to solve these complex equations.

In the reading section students must read a passage and analyze it thoroughly. The English and grammar section includes editing and revising passages. In high school students take the SAT multiple times to achieve a score high enough to get accepted into a college of their choice.

Most juniors and seniors take the test for the first time without knowing what they are up against, but the counselors here at Slider looked to solve that problem by introducing the test at an earlier age, hence the Duke TIP SAT Academy. To be chosen for this program students need either a commended score of 2600 on the TAKS math and reading, or have participated in the program during the prior year.

To prepare the student's for their upcoming challenge, counselor Mrs. Lara organized a practice SAT to be held in the Slider cafeteria on October 24. This practice was just one of the many things scheduled to help students prepare for the test. Other activities include workshops in which students learn good SAT test taking skills, such as skipping problems they don't know rather than guessing, because incorrect answers are minus one-fourth point while blank answers do not count. There are six SAT workshops scheduled for this year. "Learning about the SAT at an earlier age can help the students get better, and encourages them when taking the test so they aren't nervous and have butterflies in their stomach," explains Mrs. Lara. The students take the actual SAT on January 23.

## NJHS TACKLES COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Holidays to be busy for members as they work to raise money with green projects

By Adrian Welsh and Jazmine Thornton

At the last National Junior Honor Society meeting, they discussed various projects including "Trick or Can." Last month, Slider's National Junior Honor Society spooked a local neighborhood by going door to door asking for canned goods in traditional trick or treat style.

The members went house to house, chaperoned by parents and teachers, asking for cans. As surprised homeowners opened their doors in confusion the members briefly explained who they were and why they were there.

In addition to the canned goods, they also collected unused cell phones for one of many green projects called cell phones for education. Anyone donating a phone would receive a receipt that could be used as a tax deduction of up to \$250. The phones would then be sold to earn funds to send care packages to the soldiers in Iraq.

Other green projects include starting a recycling club and collecting aluminum tabs to raise money. Slider's NJHS is doing as much as they can to help the environment and the community at the same time.

NJHS is still collecting aluminum tabs for the Ronald McDonald house fund. A student who turns in one zip lock sandwich sized bag full of tabs is rewarded with one hour of



Trick or can

community service. Over Halloween Mrs. Torguson thought of a clever way to raise money for the Ronald McDonald fund involving a jar full of 238 plastic spiders. The idea was to pay one dollar to guess how many spiders were in the jar. Hugo Ramirez made the closest guess of 240 and won a gift basket worth \$60.

Mrs. Torguson also convinced the manager of Wal-Mart to donate a Nintendo Wii to Alexis. All of this will be presented to the Ronald McDonald house fund on December 2 in a press conference. The highlight of this conference will be when the members present a whopping thousand dollar check to the organization they have worked so hard to support.

## CHOIR MEMBERS SELECTED FOR ALL-CITY HONORS

By Vianey Reyes

Thirteen of Slider's Girls and Boys Advanced and Intermediate Choir members were honored by being selected to sing in El Paso's City Choir. On October 31, approximately two hundred singers from all over the city auditioned at Ensor Middle School. Of the one hundred twenty-five selected students, thirteen were from Slider. Selected were Aliya Gardea, Erin Wagner, Shelby Estrada, David Esparza, Crystal Remes, Alondra Gomez, Sergio Estrada, Dayna Chairez, Francisco Botero, Cassandra Ruvalcaba, Michelle Diaz, Erika Araujo, and Elijah Martinez.

During the auditions, the students sang pieces from three different songs; *Shalom, America I sing*, and *Gloria*. Choir teachers from a variety of schools served as judges.

The results were not posted until the following Monday.

Of the audition Alondra Gomez commented, "I felt nervous and I thought I wasn't going to make it, but, on Monday when they announced the finalists, I was surprised to hear my name." Congratulations to those talented singing Stallions and best of luck at their first All Region Choir concert, which will take place at Socorro High School.



All-City Choir

# GT STALLIONS SAIL THROUGH TEAM QUEST

By Hollie Wilson

Three teams of Gifted and Talented sixth grade Stallions who won at the District level will represent Slider at the Regional Team Quest Competition in the Spring.

The first place winners in the sixth grade were Victoria Laurence, Michael Lopez, and Alyssa Lopez. Second place went to Alyssa Caleza De Baza, Mia Ramirez, Valeria Soto, and Matthew Holguin. Sixth graders in third place were Ailyn Aguirre, Orion Carrasco, Amber Cho, and Catherine Silva. These students used cardboard, paper, pencils, and markers as well as other materials to win the annual Team Quest competition.

This year, the competition was held in a new building called Adventures in Learning built just for

Team Quest students. Every team quest round has a different theme and the challenges are based on those themes. There are five different challenges that each team must accomplish; engineering, trivia, math, and two creative challenges.

The teams earn points according to the creativity, originality, and neatness of their projects. At the end, all points are added and the teams with the highest scores are the winners. November 6 was the first day of the sixth grade's competition. The seventh and

eight grade's first round was held on November 9. In the seventh and eighth grade round, the first place winners were Samantha Gutierrez, Angel Valles, Rene Robles, and Hollie Wilson.

The top three teams from each school moved onto the district championship rounds held on November 12 and 13. At this round, three teams from each school competed against each other. The theme was world cultures and the competitors faced many interesting challenges including sampling food from different countries. "Several dishes were tasty, but some were almost unbearable", said Angel Valles.

The students were also introduced to Benga, an individual from Nigeria who showed them how a man would propose to a woman in that country. The last challenge they faced was to make a gift to give to the parents of the woman they would marry in Nigeria. These challenges were mostly based on what the students learned about the different cultures and the creativity they used in each project. In the end the top five winners who would move onto the next round were announced. Unfortunately, the Slider students did not place, but they had a great experience and learned several things about different cultures around the world.



Team Quest members

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Stallions we're almost halfway through another incredible year. Just look through this issue and you'll see some of the examples of our students achieving excellence in their attempts at making this the best year ever.

This month we take time for the Thanksgiving holiday. A time when families come together to enjoy each other and give thanks for the many blessings we have.



Mr. Ferguson

Within the walls of our school, we have much to be thankful for. Slider Middle School has always been blessed with a very dedicated faculty and staff. Each of them come to school everyday to make a difference in the lives of our students both in the classroom and outside of it.

Our staff of counselors and office personnel are the finest people anywhere. They tackle projects and manage the daily affairs of every single Stallion and do it with a smile on their face and a resolve to make our school the finest in the district.

Of course we are thankful for our Assistant Principals. From early in the morning until late in the evening, Mrs. Ayala and Mr. Ballard are constantly on the go working with students, faculty, parents, and staff to make sure every detail is taken care of, and they still make time to support our extra-curricular activities and sports teams.

Finally, I am thankful for each of you. Since my first day at Slider Middle School, I've known just how special this school and its community really is. Each of you walks through the door every day full of excitement, with a willingness to learn and experience new things. Each year we challenge the students to make it the best year ever and I haven't been disappointed yet. Your parents have shown their support year after year and have made our school the finest in El Paso.

Yes, we do have much to be thankful for! Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH RECOGNIZED

By Hollie Wilson and Madison Luevano

Slider's top students were honored at this year's first Student of the Month ceremony. This award is given to one outstanding student from each core each month of the school year to congratulate them on their hard work and good grades.

On November 17th, the orchestra room was filled with over 50 students, parents, and teachers. Student Council members helped out by serving the guests cake and hot chocolate.

Assistant Principal, Mrs. Ayala, began the ceremony by introducing the sixth grade students, Jubilee Ramirez, Al'Tristen Licon, Shelby Harper, Aaron Ramirez, Audree Zurick, Edgar Castillo, Solange Fournier, William Chernausky, Alonso Hernandez, Jessica Miranda, and Ruby Sanchez who are off to a great start at Slider.



The seventh graders were awarded their certificate and trophy. The students were: Katherine Frias, Ana Ulate, Rayleen Rodriguez, Marlene Sanchez, Joshua Veliz, Kareli Mendoza, Allanah Muniz, Valeria Rodriguez, and Diana Hernandez Vega. Then, the eighth grade Stallions were presented their awards; they included Zachary Ruiz, Daniel Cervera, Madeline Rivera, Melanie Montes, Kayla Stephens, Warren Redix, Bethany Wilburn, Tyler Crout, Jazmin Gandara, and Alhi Chavez. After the ceremony, each student was congratulated for a job well done, and told to keep up the good work!

# BOYS BASKETBALL HAVING A BALL.

## Both the seventh and eighth-grade teams stand undefeated

By Aaron De La Cruz and Adrian Carmona

The 8th grade Stallion boys basketball are on a winning streak. They maintained their undefeated status by dominating Sanchez Middle School by the final score of 52-20. Charles Luevano led the team with 12 points and Cesar Murillo made 4 steals. When they were down by 4

points. Previously the Stallions had defeated the Clark Cowboys 48-27 on their own court. The next game proved to be the toughest game of the season

against the Cowboys who were also undefeated. Charles Luevano went on to score six more points in the next few minutes. The first quarter was a real challenge with the Cowboy defense allowing only nine points to their one. In the second quarter both teams had numerous fouls, with Tyler Crout successfully going to the free throw line several times. Sammy Dominguez put

up two three-pointers and Zach Ruiz had a monster game on the boards with eight rebounds.

"This was a well deserved win, everyone really worked hard at practice and throughout the week," commented Cesar Murillo after the game. Jacob Aguliar added, "This was an important game, and a win could mean going to district!"

After the game the team reviewed what they might have done better, such as passing the ball, better communication, and fast breaks. "We dominated in the first half, but due to weaknesses in the second they were able to keep up with us." said Raymond Medina.

Tyler Crout ended the game with eight points, and had two blocks. After the game Coach Serna awarded Warren Reddix the MVP defensive player and Sammy Dominguez MVP offensive player.

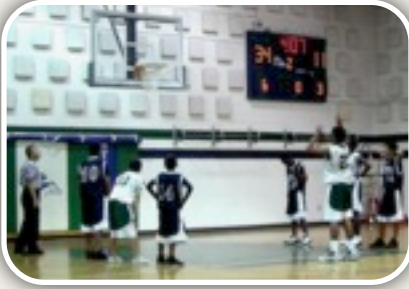
The Stallions seventh grade boy's basketball team is also on a roll. They are undefeated, stomping over Ensor, Paso Del Norte, Montwood Middle, Clark, and most

recently Sanchez by a final score of 46-22.

This team has gone through extreme practices in order to achieve their goals. "The game against Clark was the toughest so far," said point guard Brandon Perez. After a close first half ended the score was 16-15 then the Stallions dug in and fought hard to win the game. The game ended with the Stallions on top 39-26.

A-team coach Coach Valdez is thrilled for his players and hopes to have an undefeated season. "I'm happy with the way our season is going and hope we can become district champs," commented seventh grader Cristian Barrio.

Way to go Stallions, keep those wins coming.



## SLIDER STALLION NAMED TO ALL-REGION BAND

By Paige Pelletier

One Slider student recently "outplayed" the rest. Eighth grader Hugo Ramirez, clarinet player and president of Slider's National Junior Honor Society, rose to the top and became the only Stallion to qualify for All Region Band.

"Getting into All Region was a great experience because I got to work with a different conductor and meet band students from all over. I encourage any band member to try it. It is fun and it's well worth all the practice time you put in," Hugo reflected.

Over a thousand band students from all school districts in El Paso auditioned for this event, making it a tremendous accomplishment for those who made it. After perfecting three musical selections Hugo put on a flawless performance.

As an All Region band member, Hugo also received the honor of participating in a performance held at UTEP's McGoffen Center on November 14. Three long rehearsals were held to perfect compositions for this recital. The concert was open to the general public, so parents and others alike arrived to enjoy the performance. The concert went well as the students produced beautiful compositions. Hugo commented, "I was proud to represent the Stallions." This was a job well done for Hugo, and we congratulate him!



Eighth graders attended premier of New Moon



Peter Chavarin reads to Brandy

## THE STALLION PRIDE

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