



## A Message from the Director.....

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I can't believe the 2nd six weeks has come and gone already! I hope this year has been a smooth process for you and your child. We hope to keep you updated on what's going on here in New Braunfels through our newsletter. We also would like your input for our Parent to Parent Brag section. There have been lots of changes in special education with IDEA 2004. We will try to keep you up-to-date on that as well. We want this newsletter to be a resource to you. If you have any suggestions about other topics you would like for us to cover, you can email those to me or call me at 643-5741. *Martie Rodríguez*

## Bridges Students Busy as New Year Begins

Our Bridges Students have started this year on-the-go learning job skills and volunteering in the community. They recently received a certificate of appreciation from the Salvation Army for their assistance in a fundraiser for the hurricane victims. On Thurs., Oct. 27, Joe Gonzales, Juan Tristan, and Alonzo Espinoza were recognized at the grand opening of Miller and Miller Insurance Agency for their

volunteer work in helping them move to their new location. They are planning to begin a new small business of shredding confidential materials for local businesses. Flyers are in the works.

Congratulations go to Joe for his new job at CiCi's Pizza.

November's theme for the Bridges program is "Learning About Community Resources". Students will be exploring city services and

exploring city services and programs, and learning how to access them.



L to R: Alonzo Espinoza, Joe Gonzales, Juan Tristan, Alison Hock (teacher)

## New State Assessment/TAKS I

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TAKS Inclusive (TAKS I) is a brand new test that will be given this year to meet state requirements for those subjects and grade levels that are currently assessed with the TAKS but not with the SDAA II due to the fact that there is no

SDAA II developed for certain areas. The test will be for special education students who are working on or near grade level in the following content areas:

Science; grades 5, 8, 10 and Exit

Spanish Science; grade 5  
SS; grades 8, 10, and Exit

Exit level ELA

Exit level Math

Remember that students who are graduating under an IEP may not have to take an Exit level test

## Q & A.....Assessment

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TAKS, SDAA, SDAA II...What is the Difference? In Texas, students are tested annually in grades 3-11 in various subjects at varying grades. The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) is the standard assessment tool used in Texas. ARD committees may determine that the TAKS test would not be an appropriate measure for student performance and recommend an alternative assessment (SDAAII or LDAA). An SDAA II is a newly revised alternative assessment much more aligned

to the TAKS. Assessment in its content, context, and complexity. Its objective is to offer students the same rigor of assessment in a visibly-friendly format with slightly fewer questions. An LDAA is a locally developed alternative assessment, used for subject areas where there is not an SDAAII, or when specific student assessment needs that are not being met through the regular SDAA II even with allowable modifications.

***SDAA II will be released this January through the TEA website.***



## New Braunfels Students Shine at SNF Football Game

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*Nathan Brundrett and Henry Kennedy were recently chosen as Most Valuable Players for scoring most of the touchdowns in their SNF football game held at T Bar M. Their next game will be this Saturday, November 19th from 4:00-5:00. If you are interested in having your child play with this team, contact Terri Brotze at 625-8689, or Tina Adkins at 626-8804.*



## Reminder: Autism Lending Library and Parent Resource Library

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We'd like to remind you that Region XIII Education Service Center in Austin has a lending library for Autism. They will deliver you choices to your school. Any professional, paraprofessional, or parent (who goes through an educator) may have access to the lending library. The library contains books, videos, DVDs, and other materials covering a wide range of information concerning autism.

To access the library:

Go to [www.esc13.net/autism/library.html](http://www.esc13.net/autism/library.html)

Click on:

Autism library lending portal

This will take you to a page with detailed directions for accessing the library. You may search by author, title, subject, or description. Once you check out an item, it will be delivered by the Region XIII

van, or you can pick it up if you will be at the service center.

### **District Resource Library for Parents**

Also, there is a parent resource library located at the Middle School. Janie Medrano will be happy to check out any material to you between 1:15- 3:30. If you have any suggestions for other books or videos, please let me or Janie know.

## Special Olympians Compete

Congratulations to all the athletes that participated in the Sept. 30th Area 13 Bocce Competition here at NBHS. The unified teams of Krystal Elliott and Rachel Williams won 1st place gold medals as did Tilli Lynch and Tricia Isbell (top pic.). The other unified team members of Phillip Cameron and Devin Shepherd won 1st place gold medals and Matt Hocher and Cody Bell (bottom pic.) won 2nd place silver medals.

Single Bocce players were Tiffany Gallagher who won a 1st place gold, Cassie Reddam won a 2nd place silver, Camarie Marbach won

a 3rd place bronze, Inocencio Hernandez won a 2nd place silver and Alonzo Espinoza won a 3rd place bronze. Congratulations to all of you and a BIG THANK YOU goes out to all the students and Faculty of NBHS for all the help and support they gave in helping to make this competition so successful.

Also, congratulations to Nancy Edelen and TJ Hapshie, Special Olympics Coaches, along with the Special Olympics Boosters and many others, for putting on a wonderful tournament at NBHS!



## Our Featured Classroom

### Mrs. Armstrong's Super Students!

This year, Mrs. Armstrong's students at MP have been very busy. They have traced their bodies and written about their favorite things on the Pix Writer program in a effort to get to know each other better. They are beginning a new study of Fall and Farms. They are doing lots of internet research and cooking experiences, such as making their own butter, rainbow toast, and cooking a Barnyard Breakfast together. She integrates science and social studies into each of

their units. She reports that the this unit on Fall and Farms is one of her students' favorites. In this picture, students from Mrs. Armstrong's and Mrs. Stafford's classes make a scarecrow. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed apple cider and pumpkin cookies while they wrote about "How to make a Scarecrow".

Pictured L to R: Gabby Gomez, Jonathan Antosh, Israel Espinoza, DJ Neill, Israel Martinez, Aaron Gayton, Jonathan Maldonado.



## Parent to Parent

### Parent to Parent....

Please ask questions for this section, and we will have other parents answer.

### Parent Brag Section....

Send in your own story about the wonderful things your

child has accomplished

Email your questions or stories to [mrodriguez@newbraunfels.txed.net](mailto:mrodriguez@newbraunfels.txed.net) or mail them to me at:

430 W. Mill

New Braunfels, TX 78130

### 2006 Calendar

The Down Syndrome Association of San Antonio has put together a beautiful calendar for 2006. A nephew of one of our paras is featured in the calendar, along with other beautiful children. If you would like to order a copy, visit their website:

[www.dsasa.org](http://www.dsasa.org)