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winter issue 2019
COVER ART: CESAR AGUAYO, BEL AIR HIGH SCHOOL
MIS VERDADERAS RAICES
MIXED MEDIA
2018 BEST IN SHOW, VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE EXHIBITION

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letter from the

director

Are you the difference?

As we enter contest season it becomes overwhelmingly apparent to me just how much a difference the teacher makes in the development and performance of the student. All students come to the table with some level of inherent talent, it’s up to the teacher to mold, grow and encourage that talent and assist the student into being the best they can be. In many cases this may be easier said than done but, in almost every case, I believe it can be done.

Often, people might say that the X factor in this equation is the student and their willingness to rise to the challenge. I disagree, I have seen students that have gone in with the completely wrong or dismissive attitude but with the right teacher have flourished and done what everyone else had said was impossible. The X factor in the end, is the dedication and determination of the teacher. I have seen some of our teachers pull off phenomenal feats with their students and the only difference between them and a mediocre performance from another school is the low expectations and decreased dedication of the teacher.

Many times we will find excuses why our students do not do as well as others. While this may sound harsh, I believe these are, simply that - excuses; reasons we give ourselves and our students to not even try. In my tenure with The District I have witnessed countless examples of where our students, on paper; had no business competing at the state or national level, especially considering the resources available to them, or lack thereof. Yet, time and time again, these same students, despite of the inequities life has presented them, continuously rise to the challenge and supersede all expectations.

This does not happen due to some inherent ability our students have other than, I believe, all children want to succeed. I have witnessed students that have not been afforded the same learning opportunities or dedicated instruction that others have try just as hard. I have seen students at a sight reading contest diligently endeavor to perform at the expected level but have not been able to because their teacher failed them by not providing the necessary instruction. The looks of frustration and disappointment on their faces is difficult to witness. I have also seen the faces of joy, elation and accomplishment when other students, who have been prepared adequately, succeed and triumph. ALL of our students deserve that opportunity. We need to be honest with ourselves as we reflect on our teaching strategies with our students. If we know that our students could do better or that we can teach better then we must take that hard inward look and honestly admit that we can improve. Identification that a problem exists is the first step in fixing it. Not all poor performance stems from a lack of desire or effort. While that is the reason for some teachers’ poor performance, more often than not, there simply lacks an understanding of how to proceed. That is when we must realize that we are not islands unto ourselves and call upon the knowledge and experience of our colleagues and friends.

As we enter the last nine weeks of school, I challenge you to not give in to the complacency the end of the year brings but make that difficult self-examination and challenge yourself to be the teacher your students deserve. Call upon your neighbor, friend, fellow teacher; administrator; and student; anyone who you think might have a suggestion on how you might improve. As long as you do everything you can to be the teacher your student deserves, then you can rest well knowing that you are making a difference.

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Barbara Hunter Cardon
October 29, 1948 – January 8, 2019

This January the Ysleta Fine Arts Department lost one of its brightest lights.

Mrs. Barbara Cardon began her career with the Ysleta Independent School District over thirty years ago. In her time spent at Vista Hills Elementary School, Barbara touched the lives of thousands of children, evident in her memorial service which overflowed with students, both past and present, wishing to pay their respects. She filled every room she entered with light, laughter and, above all, love. She spent her career teaching choir, dance and visual arts, but what she loved most of all was the theater. Throughout her career, Barbara wrote, composed, directed and designed performances of every variety. Each performance was meticulously designed to educate, inform and spark joy within the hearts of her students. She worked in multiple capacities within our department, but none gave her as much satisfaction as her performances. Each Community Coffee, Fall Festival and school performance was a time for Barbara and her students to shine.

We miss you Barbara.

Her infectious laugh, recognizable telephone greetings and overall joyful outlook will be forever missing from any Fine Arts event.

Forever to teach is to touch a life.
2019 State Band & Choir (TMEA) Area Auditions

Each year, the Texas Music Educators Association sponsors the All-State audition process to “promote students’ dedication to their musical knowledge and skill.” Beginning as early as Fall, an estimated 70,000 students from all over the state of Texas begin the audition process in hopes of capturing an all state performance position. Teachers work tirelessly to ensure their students success. Much like what takes place in UIL music contests, students will prepare and perform a piece of music highlighting their talents in front of a panel of judges. After several advancements through the region, the highest ranking students will then compete at the Area level in January. At this point, only the top students will be awarded a position within one of fifteen Texas All-State Bands, Choirs and Orchestras. In February, at the annual TMEA Conference, these students rehearse for three days, directed by nationally recognized conductors, and perform on the closing day. Congratulations to all YISD students who represented our district so well! We are SO PROUD of you!

Eastwood High School: Nicholas Aidan Gallegos, Alberto Daniel Velasquez
Hanks High School: Brigitte Hernandez, Sean Salazar, Demetreis Thornton, Sachell Valenzuela, Jesus Andrew Cordova, Jaya Monee Edgerton, Diego Enriquez, Jesus Escobar
Parkland High School: Peyton Bell, Sebastian Calderon

2019 UIL State Mariachi Contest

2019 marks the first year the Ysleta Independent School District entered and competed in the UIL Mariachi Contest. It also marks the first year the Ysleta Independent School District was represented at the State level contest in mid February. Under the direction of Orlando Guerrero, Doug Brown, Karla Urias Couder, Juan Contreras and Osvaldo Altimirano (Hanes Feeders) students began rehearsing and performing as early as August 2018. They worked endlessly, and performed dozens of times over the next few months in order to better prepare their students. At the Region 22 Mariachi Contest held February 1 at YISD Central Offices, each mariachi program had ten minutes to perform two songs in various styles. Groups that received the highest rating received a trophy and a spot at the UIL State Mariachi Contest. Along with a few other El Paso schools, the YISD mariachi program traveled to Edinburg, Texas to compete. Our group went on to earn an Excellent rating at the contest. We are so incredibly proud of all the hard work put in by both students and teachers and would like to recognize them for all their hard work and dedication.

The 2019 Black History Month Annual Art Contest & Exhibition

Each year, the Ysleta ISD Fine Arts Department hosts an annual Black History Month art exhibition to highlight and feature some of the most memorable and valuable contributions made by African Americans both past and present. In an effort to engage students, this year Gallery Curator Sam Garcia decided to recognize African American musicians with the theme “African American Singers Who Revolutionized Music Worldwide.”

The Ysleta ISD Gallery Staff received over 250 entries from both Socorro ISD and Ysleta ISD. Entries featured dozens of artists both new and old. Everyone from Etta James and Louis Armstrong to Prince and Ice Cube were included in this year’s show. “Our goal is to allow students an opportunity to really understand why a person is important. We hope the students take time and research their subjects before they begin their pieces. We all understand the staples of African American Culture, but it’s important they students understand who they were, as artists” explains YISD Gallery Assistant Rocio Villalobos.

The exhibition ran throughout February at Socorro ISD Central Offices. Judges Bilye Townes, Rachael Salas Ojeda and Brandon Michael Soto selected winners based on technique, originality and overall aesthetic. These winners were announced March 1 before a crowd of participants, parents and friends.

High School Division
Second Place
When You’re Smiling by Anthony Williams - Parkland HS, K. Gelinas

Third Place
Remember by Danielle Waters - Bel Air HS, R. Ordonez

Elementary School Division
Best in Show
Lenny Kravitz by Hector Segovia - Capistrano ES, A. Narvaez

First Place
Maurice White by Madeleine Meza - Thomas Manor ES, P. McIntyre

Second Place
The Legacy of Prince by Diego Villalobos - Del Valle ES, A. Villalobos
As part of the 2019 Celebrate the Arts Series, this year’s High School Honor Dance Program highlighted the best dance programs our district has to offer. The almost two hour program is definitely one of, if not the most, attended program of the year. Over 600 people fill the Ysleta ISD Central Office Theater to watch the incredible performances. Dance programs from across the district show off their talents in a variety of dance styles. Everything from modern to classic is featured that evening, with over 300 high school dance students participating. Each year, Mrs. Sheila Dwyer does an incredible job of coordinating the event on behalf of the YISD Fine Arts Department. She explains “The Winter Meltdown Dance Program is extremely important to show the community what the Ysleta Independent School District Fine Arts Department does for our dancers. Outsiders who come to the show are astounded at the extremely high level of ability that our dancers display. The students love to show their technique, skills, training and all that their hard work has accomplished.” This year’s program featured former Eastwood Alumni and current Dallas Mavericks dance team member Janae Green as it’s guest choreographer. Green was born and raised in El Paso and attended both Desert View Middle and Eastwood High School. After attending the University of North Texas, she loves to “share her love of dance with the rest of the world.”

Every year, dancers from each high school gather and collect winter hats, gloves, jackets, warm ups, scarves, mittens, ear muffs, and blankets for those less fortunate in what they call the Warm the Body, Head to Toe Clothing Drive. Mrs. Dwyer goes on to explain “The clothing drive started the very first year of the Winter Meltdown Dance program. With this drive, dancers collect articles to warm the body, of those in need, from “Head to Toe”. We collect any article that would warm the body. All of the dancers from every school collect donations that are, in turn, given to the less fortunate who have come to count on the generosity of the Ysleta District dancers!”

Each December, as part of the annual Celebrate the Arts series of honor concerts and performances, a group of high school students is gathered to form the Ysleta Independent School District’s Honor Full Orchestra. A Full Orchestra mixes instruments from different families, including bowed string instruments such as violin, viola, cello, and double bass, as well as brass, woodwinds, and percussion instruments, each grouped in sections.

Each student is hand picked by their instructors based on individual performance and All Region audition results. As with each honor concert, program coordinators Julia Gutierrez and Bryan Andrade choose music, set up rehearsals and create an enjoyable holiday concert for participant’s parents and friends. Bryan Andrade, Band Coordinator, explains “As a coordinator, we have to make sure to pick music that is both challenging for the best players yet playable for the younger, less experienced students. We also want to make sure that we pick a mixture of traditional as well as recognizable pieces so that audiences of all ages are entertained.”

This year, Ms. Julia Gutierrez, Orchestra Coordinator, took on the role of conductor. Her bio reads: Ms. Gutierrez is both an educator and performer from El Paso, Texas and currently serves as the orchestra director at Eastwood High School. She received her B.M. and M.M. from the University of Texas at El Paso where she studied violin and viola as well as conducting. She is a founding member of the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestra and a former member of the Juarez Symphony in Juarez, Mexico. As a conductor she has participated in masterclasses, with such distinguished conductors as Diane Wittry, Anna Edwards, Christopher Zimmerman, Kevin Sutterlin and Marin Alsop.

The crowd of friends and family were delighted to see how much talent our students have. The program, as always, featured modern Christmas music as well as holiday classics.
Each year, each high school theater program works relentlessly in preparation for the annual UIL One Act Play Competition. The UIL website defines this contest as a competition where similarly sized Texas schools present an 18-40 minute play and may be adjudicated by a panel of three judges or a single judge. The contest is held on a single day and open to the public. There are six possible levels of competition: Zone, District, Bi-District, Area, Region, and State. At each level of competition a judge awards individual acting awards as well as selecting three productions to advance to the next level of competition up to the Regional Level where only two will advance to the State Level. After the awards are announced a judge gives an oral critique to each of the schools. Because of the wide participation and diversity of plays produced certain rules and guidelines have been adopted by the State One-Act Play Office. These rules are in place to ensure safety, allow for equity, satisfy legal standards, and make the running of the contest practical.

Any theater teacher will tell you, this contest is not for the faint of heart. Each group must adhere to a strict list of rules and regulations concerning time, space and design. As the contest continues, groups perform their shows up to 6 times at each level of the contest. This article features results from the first three rounds of contest beginning February 25, 2019 at Pebble Hills High School. The next level of competition will be March 26, 2019 at Canutillo High School. Break a leg Del Valle High School & Riverside High School!

2-SA ZONE 1, February 25, 2019 - Pebble Hills High School

Best Stage Manager: Parkland High School, Micahia Newman
Best Overall Tech Award: Parkland High School, Micahia Newman, Shanna Kline, Nadia Gallegos, Darien Bredlove, Elizabeth Ramirez
Honorable Mention All Star Cast:
- Parkland High School, Angel Munoz, Alessandria Cokk
- Hanks High School, Alcides Ybarra, Patricia Stremeyer
- Riverside High School, Lauren Martinez, Michelle Tarin

All Star Cast:
- Parkland High School, Luisa Chairez, Matthew Dean, Mario Vazquez
- Hanks High School, Kylee Rayman
- Riverside High School, Jady Delgadillo

Best Actress: Hanks High School, Annelise Castillo
Advancing Plays: Parkland High School & Riverside High School
Alternate Play: Westlake High School

2-SA ZONE 2, February 26, 2019 - Pebble Hills High School

Best Individual Tech: Del Valle High School, Mariana Gallardo
Best Overall Tech Award: Eastwood High School, Mia Ceballos, Magali Vasquez, Aheleah Davis-Wilson, Irene Chavez, Aragorn Barrenas

Honorable Mention All Star Cast:
- Ysleta High School, Karla Montelongo
- Eastwood High School, Marcela Garcia-Ugarte, Madrid Chamlee
- Del Valle High School, Robert Nevaruz, Jorge Figueroa
- Bel Air High School, Alazae Hinojosa

All Star Cast:
- Ysleta High School, Nellie Zamora, Francisco Rodriguez
- Eastwood High School, Daisy Enriquez
- Del Valle High School, Nicole Delgado, Gerardo Miranda
- Bel Air High School, Brendan Galindo

Best Actor: Eastwood High School, Adam Garcia
Best Actress: Del Valle High School, Alana Rap
Advancing Plays: Del Valle High School, Eastwood High School & Bel Air High School

2-SA District, March 1, 2019 - Eastlake High School

Best Overall Tech Award: Parkland High School, Micahia Newman, Shanna Kline, Nadia Gallegos, Darien Bredlove, Elizabeth Ramirez
Honorable Mention All Star Cast:
- Del Valle High School, Alana Rap
- Eastwood High School, Madrid Chamlee, Mateo Zeh
- Riverside High School, Lauren Martinez
- Parkland High School, Louise Chavez
- Bel Air High School, Brendan Galindo

All Star Cast:
- Del Valle High School, Stephanie Bermudez
- Eastwood High School, Adam Garcia
- Riverside High School, Michelle Tarin
- Parkland High School, Ashley Crooks, Matthew Dean
- Bel Air High School, Alazae Hinojosa, Austen Flores

Best Actor: Del Valle High School, Jorge Figueroa
Best Actress: Riverside High School, Jady Delgadillo
Advancing Plays: Riverside High School & Del Valle High School
Alternate Play: Eastwood High School
the elementary school honor band concert

As is the goal of all Celebrate the Arts series concerts, both the Elementary and Middle School Honor Bands allow our students a chance at experiencing formal and professional musical performance. In the beginning stages of the series, these concerts used to run on the same evening; but as the programs expanded, it became clear that each group should have its own night to shine.

Anastasia Angeles and Rey Guerrero, program coordinators for the Elementary School Honor Band, did an amazing job of coordinating schedules, hosting rehearsals and gathering information needed to put the entire show together. Megan Hayden, Band Director at Parkland Middle School, conducted this year’s group and was incredibly impressed with the talent of our youngest Band members.

She explains “I am amazed at how talented these students are. It just goes to show you how hard the Ysleta ISD Band teachers work. Their hard work really shows itself when we bring all these students together.”

This year students played songs such as Independencia March, Farewell at Dawn and Aftershock.

THE 2019 MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR BAND CONCERT

For the 2019 Middle School Honor Band, coordinator’s Tracy Morales and Matthew Fernandez enlisted Roque Orozco, Del Valle Middle School Assistant Director, to conduct this year’s group. Under his direction, the group of hand-picked students from each Middle School campus did an incredible job. Parents and family were nothing but complimentary about the student’s experience as a whole. One parent explained “I was so happy to have my daughter be a part of this. I know it’s a little extra work for the teachers and staff, but the students really love doing it. It’s such a positive experience for them.”

Students were given a little over a month to learn the selected titles, and the coordinator’s made sure these students were prepared. Coordinating five rehearsals, Tracy Morales and Matthew Fernandez facilitated an environment of learning, performance and comfort. Students worked closely with Orozco and learned such titles as Call to Glory, Adversary and Bicycle Race.

Following the performance, Orozco congratulated the group and spoke with parents. “Your children did a great job. It was my pleasure and honor to work with them.”
The 2019 Elementary School Honor Orchestra concert proved to be one of the most successful to date. Coordinator Albert Hernandez enlisted guest conductor Rodrigo Maldonado to help with this year’s group. Together they created an incredible ensemble of some of Ysleta’s youngest string players.

Over the course of five rehearsals, students worked with teachers and Mr. Maldonado to create a beautiful concert that thrilled parents. “My son was so excited to be a part of this concert. He has been working on it for weeks!” exclaimed one parent. Coordinator Albert Hernandez explained, “These students worked really hard. Having an elementary school concert so close to winter break could potentially pose a problem for some of these students, but the teachers in the Ysleta district make sure to have all their students ready to perform. I am so incredibly proud of them and appreciate what Rodrigo has done with them.”

The evening of the concert, over 100 students, handpicked by teachers played a variety of songs, both old and new. Students easily mastered songs such as Storm, Viking and Yeehaw!

For this year’s Middle School Honor Orchestra Program, coordinators Alicia Yñiguez and Daniel Natividad worked very hard to ensure every student was as prepared as possible, much more so than years passed. This year’s concert was only two weeks after the winter break - which could have been an issue with some students. However, through hard work and dedication, our teachers made sure every student in the 100+ piece orchestra was ready to perform!

This year our students had the great pleasure of working with Mr. Eric Rangel. Mr. Rangel, Orchestra Director of El Paso High School, has been hired by the district on multiple occasions due to his work ethic, positive attitude and overall professional demeanor. He worked very well with our students, and was always proud of the work they had done. Following the performance, Rangel thanked parents and students for their outstanding dedication.

Much like the Elementary School Orchestra, this group gathered at five rehearsals and learned such pieces as Viking, A Beethoven Lullaby, Inverno and Aggressive. Each student played with fervor and dedication. We could not be more proud of what our Orchestra programs have achieved.
21st Annual

VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE

JURIED ART AWARD EXHIBIT

For over twenty years, the Yselta Independent School District Fine Arts department has hosted an Annual Art Exhibition in its Galeria De La Misión De Seneca honoring the geographical and cultural phenomenon known as the Virgen de Guadalupe. The Virgen de Guadalupe is the Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary associated with a Marian apparition and a venerated image enshrined within the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

Her image quickly became an instantly recognizable figure. Seen everywhere from religious iconography, to popular culture and fashion. The exhibition allows artists to explore their own personal versions of this famous figure. Drawing inspiration from their own lives and experiences both student and professional artists spends hours working on pieces that best reflect their own visions of the famed Virgen. The gallery has seen the Virgen in almost every light at this point. Everything from religious diety to pop culture flash. She’s been seen floating above a small village in a painting valued at over $10,000 - while also “appearing” in spray paint on the side of a contemporary pizza restaurant.

This year was one of our most successful years to date with over 130 entries from across the city. Jurors Adriana Aleman, Jessica Ceballos and David Flores had a difficult task choosing which pieces would be receiving an award. Winners were represented from almost every Ysleta ISD Campus.

Professional Category:

BEST IN SHOW: Mis Verdaderas Raíces by Cesar Aguayo (Bel Air HS)
FIRST PLACE: Ahi Mi Mexico by Raul Monarrez (Del Valle HS)
SECOND PLACE: Aparicion by Ramiro Ordenez (Bel Air HS)
THIRD PLACE: Madre Tierra, Madre de Dios by Pablo Hernandez
HONORABLE MENTION: Madre Tierra, Madre de Dios by Sarah Kim

Elementary School Category:

BEST IN SHOW: Virgen de Guadalupe by Alessandra Lopez Capistrano ES, A. Narvaez
FIRST PLACE: La Rosa de Guadalupe by Abigail Cantu Ascarate ES, M. Sepulveda
SECOND PLACE: Incomplete Puzzle... by Dulce Carrillo Edgemere ES, M. Camboa
THIRD PLACE: Contemplation by Angelina Polett Quintero Mesa Vista ES, V. Merchant

Middle School Category:

BEST IN SHOW: La Virgen de Guadalupe by Victor Loya Camino Real MS, D. Otero
FIRST PLACE: La Virgen by Ximena Rodriguez-Loya Camino Real MS, D. Otero
SECOND PLACE: Ever Mine Ever Yours by Alana Booher Young Women’s Leadership Academy, M. Monteros-Agnes
THIRD PLACE: Our Lady of Guadalupe by Michelle Gomez Camino Real MS, D. Otero

High School Category:

BEST IN SHOW: Morning Glory by Anabel Rodriguez Ysleta HS, D. Franco
FIRST PLACE: Espiritu Maternal by Sabrina Ortega Riverside HS, M. Ortiz
SECOND PLACE: Nature’s Virgen by Carlos Rodriguez Eastwood HS, A. Quillin
THIRD PLACE: House of Pizza by May-Ling Cheung Eastwood HS, D. Vera

Special congratulations to our YOUNGEST professional artist EVER. Miss Sarah Kim is six years old and received an Honorable Mention for her incredible piece entitled Madre Tierra, Madre De Dios. We were so honored to have her first ever professional entry at our Virgen de Guadalupe Exhibition.